Black Jack

Osamu Tezuka

VOLUME NO. 2

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Volume 2

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VERTICAL.

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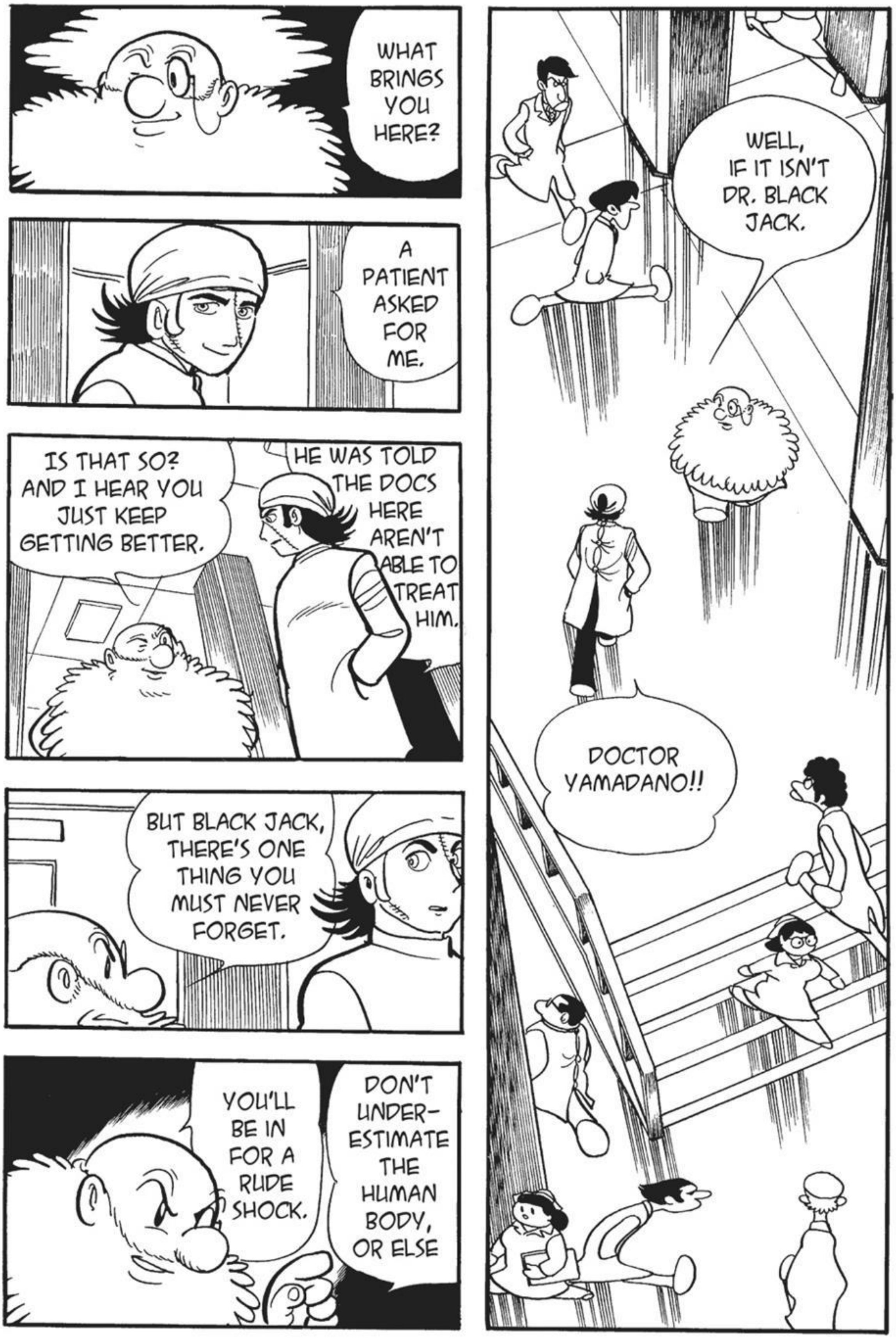
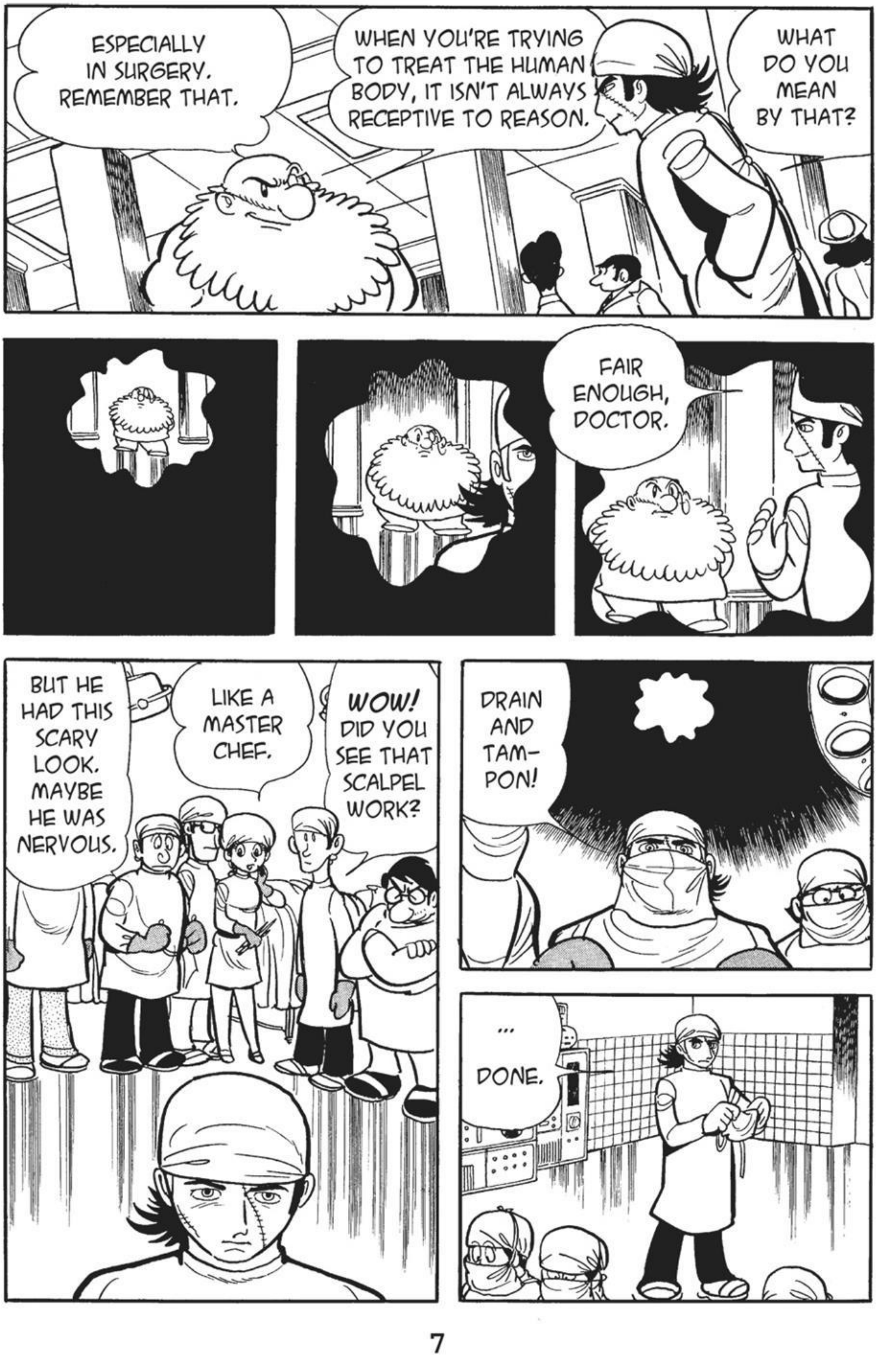
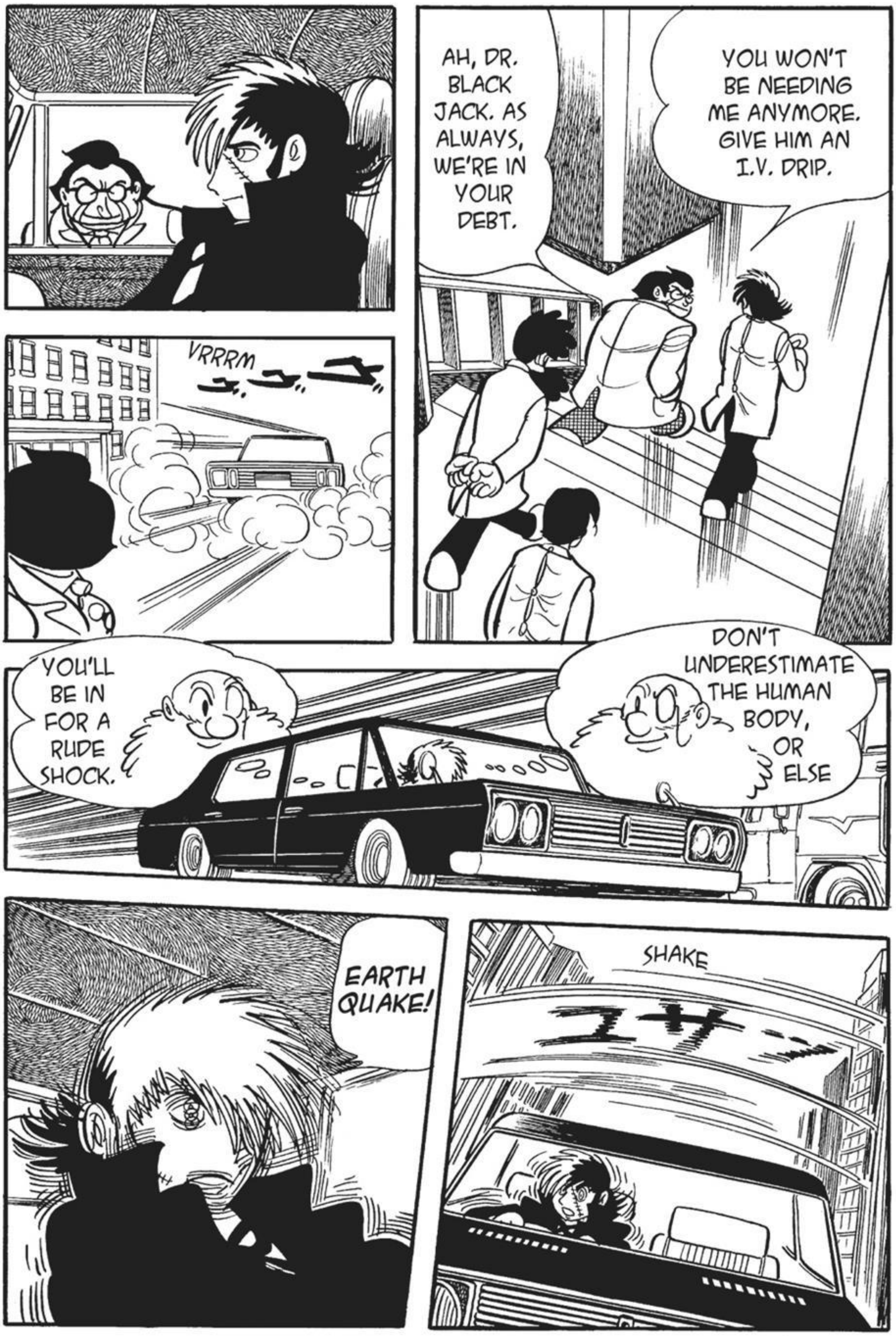
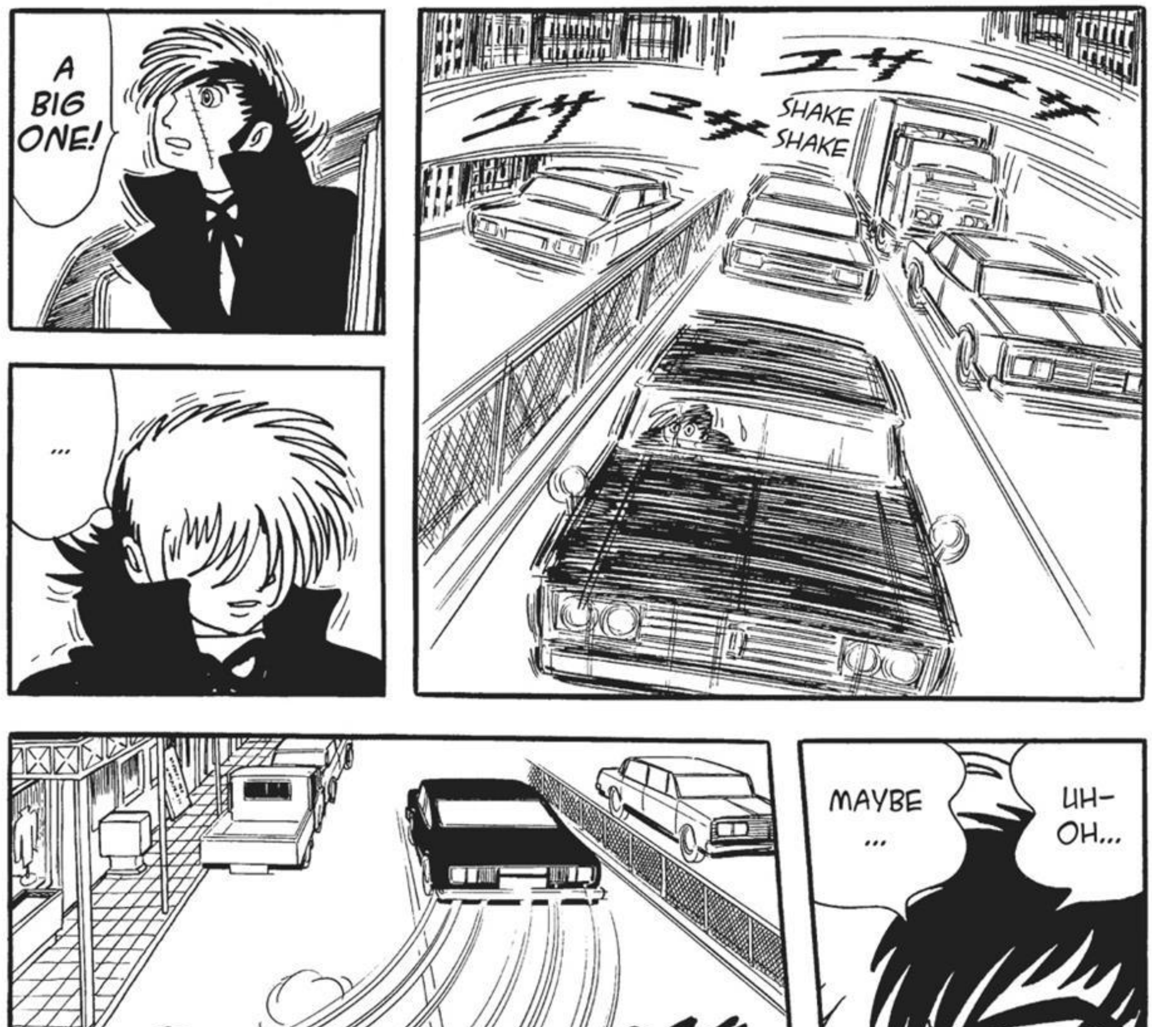
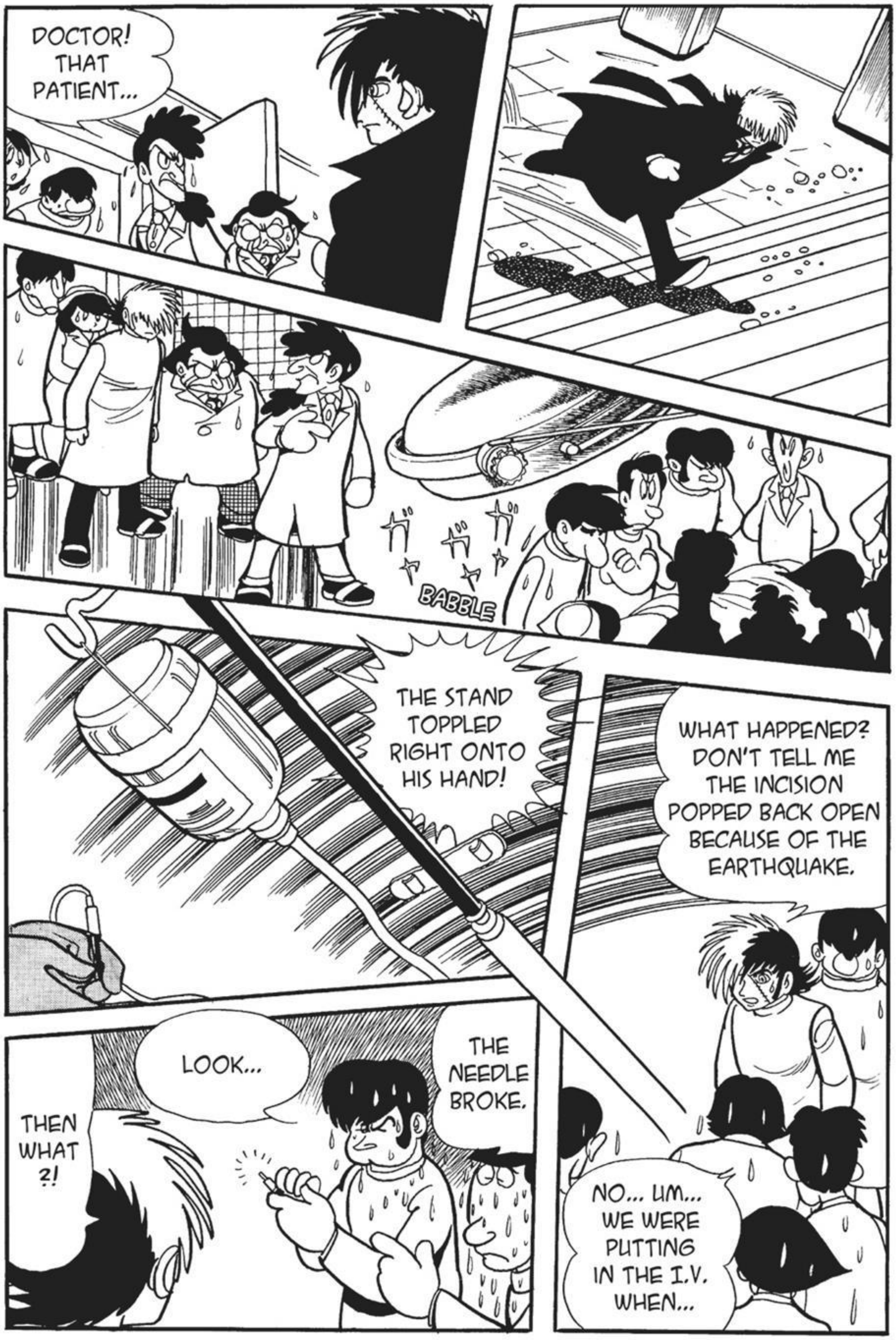
NEEDLE

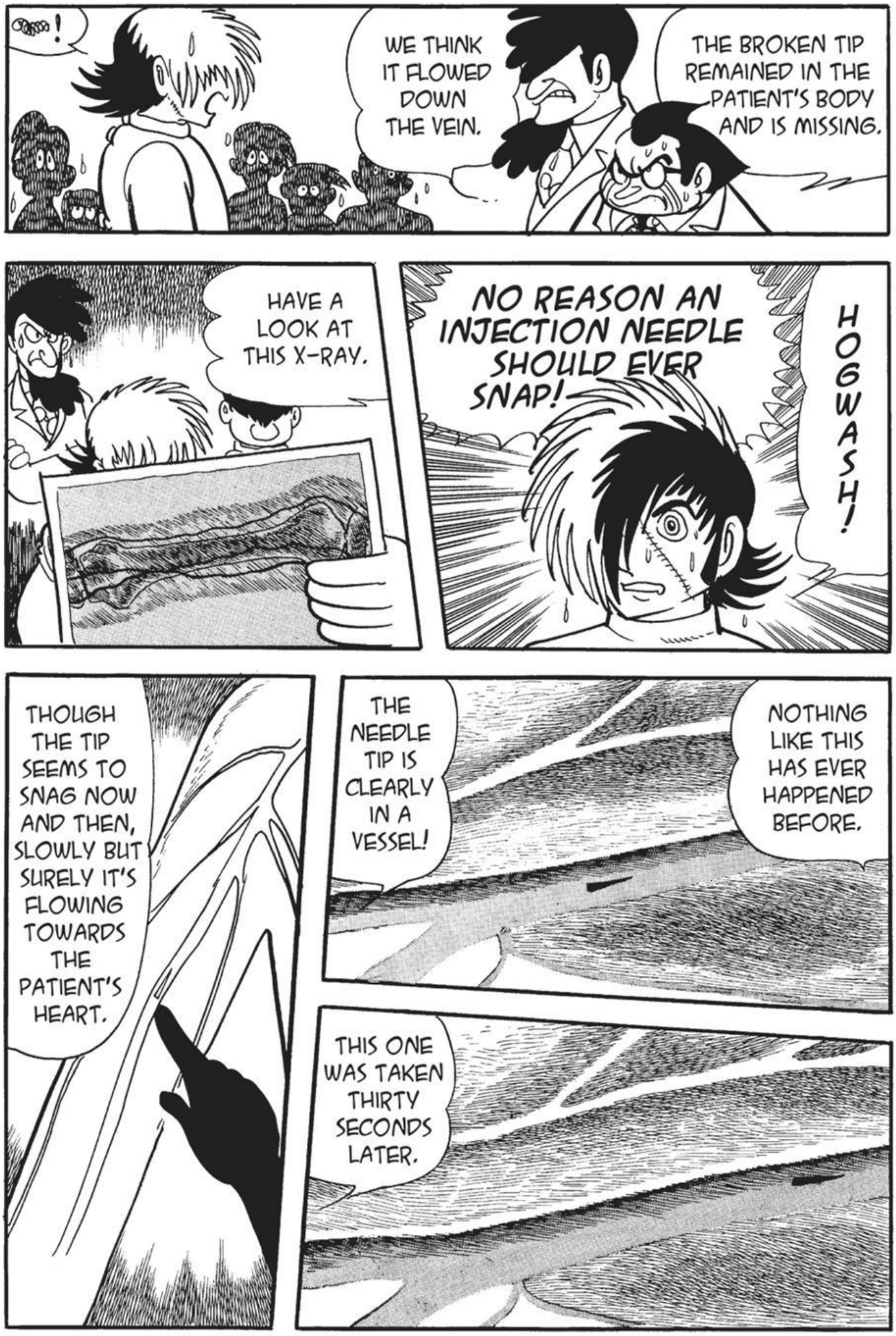

DOCTOR YAMADANO!!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T DR. BLACK JACK.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
A PATIENT ASKED FOR ME.
HE WAS TOLD THE DOCS HERE AREN'T ABLE TO TREAT HIM.
IS THAT SO? AND I HEAR YOU JUST KEEP GETTING BETTER.
BUT BLACK JACK, THERE'S ONE THING YOU MUST NEVER FORGET.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE HUMAN BODY, OR ELSE
YOU'LL BE IN FOR A RUDE SHOCK.

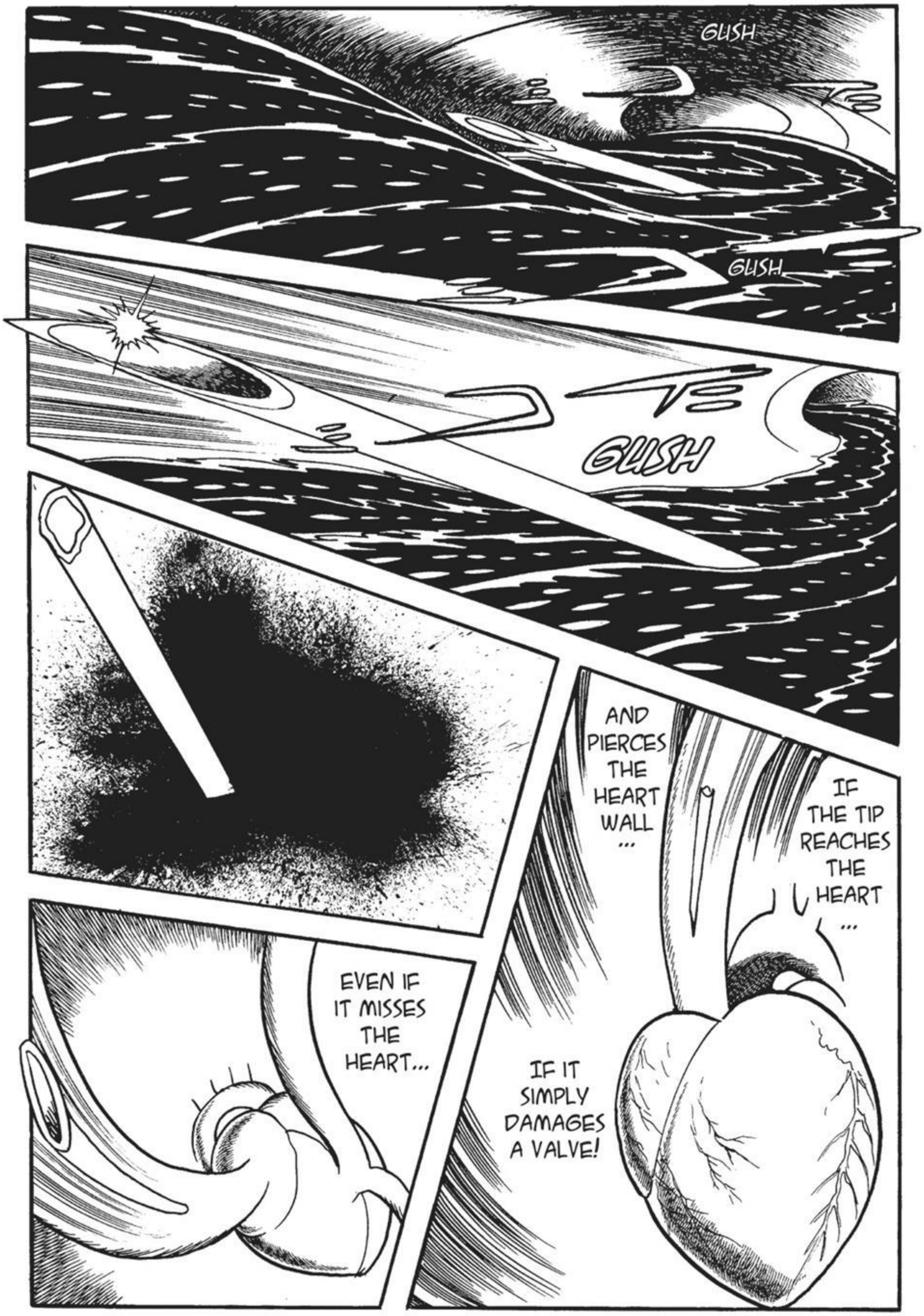

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WHEN YOU'RE TRYING TO TREAT THE HUMAN BODY, IT ISN'T ALWAYS RECEPTIVE TO REASON.
ESPECIALLY IN SURGERY. REMEMBER THAT.
FAIR ENOUGH, DOCTOR.
DRAIN AND TAM-PON!
... DONE.
WOW! DID YOU SEE THAT SCALPEL WORK?
LIKE A MASTER CHEF.
BUT HE HAD THIS SCARY LOOK. MAYBE HE WAS NERVOUS.

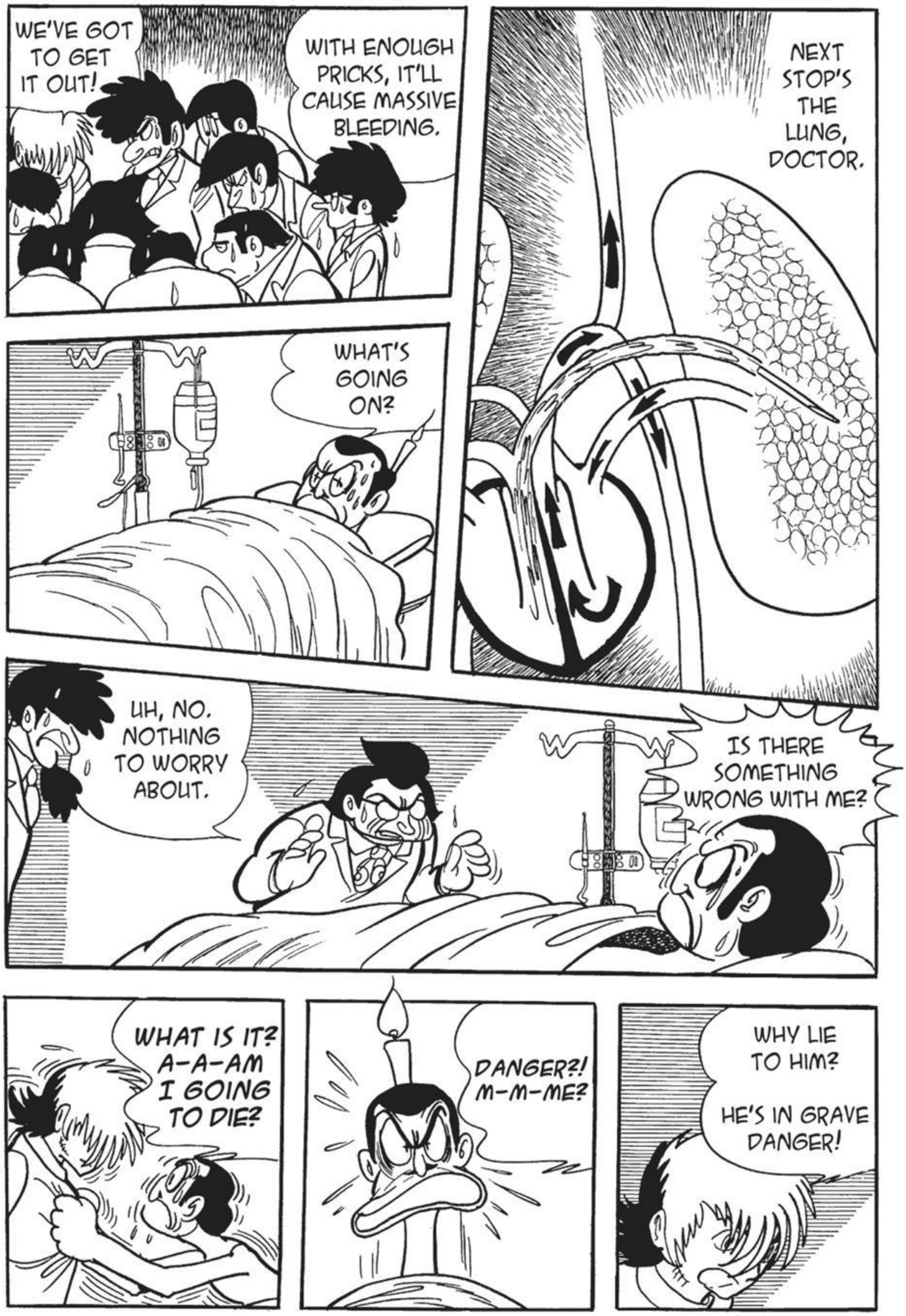

AH, DR. BLACK JACK. AS ALWAYS, WE'RE IN YOUR DEBT.
YOU WON'T BE NEEDING ME ANYMORE. GIVE HIM AN I.V. DRIP.
VRRRM
YOU'LL BE IN FOR A RUDE SHOCK.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE HUMAN BODY, OR ELSE
EARTH QUAKE!
SHAKE
ユサ

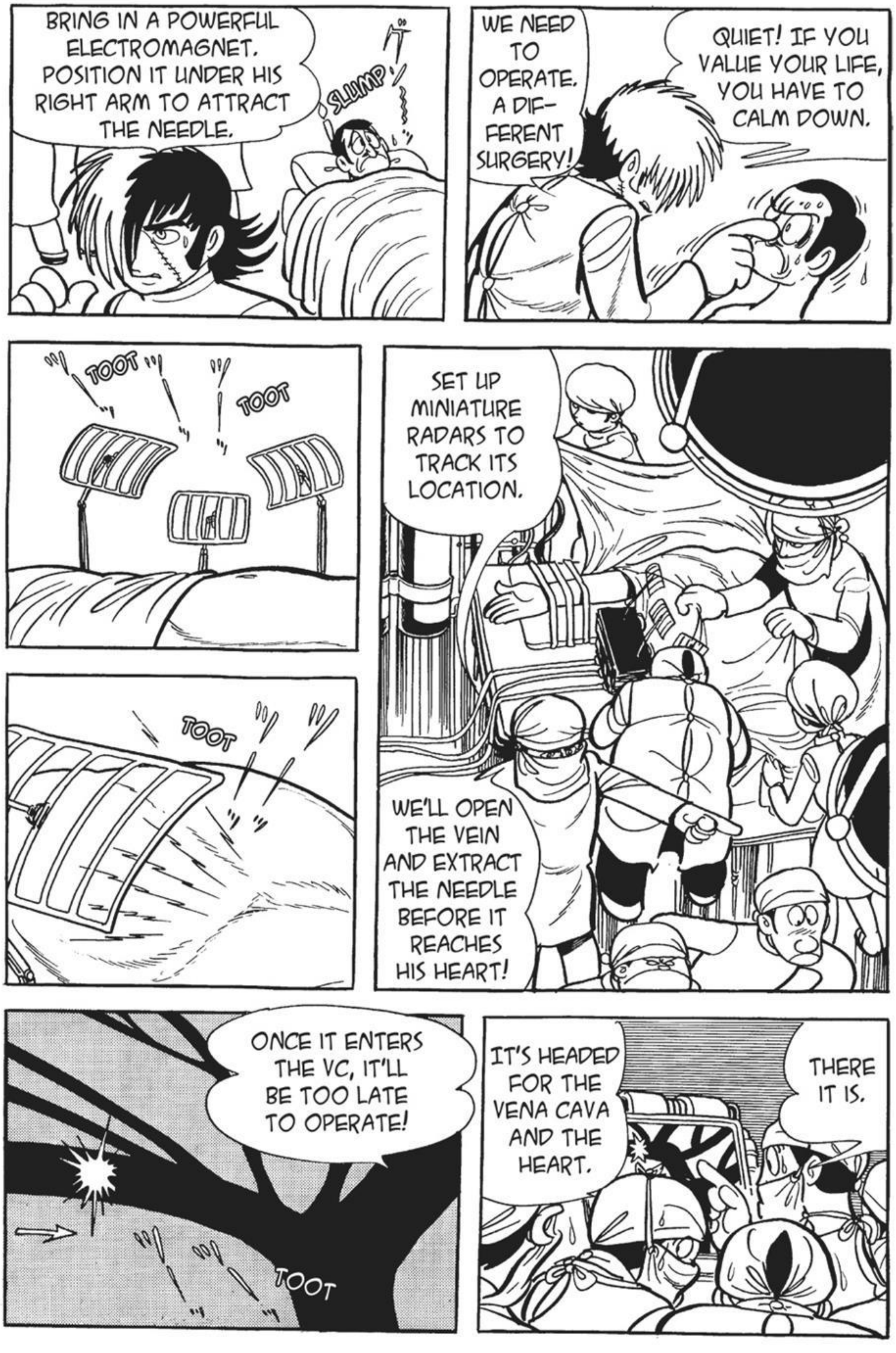

ユサ ユサ
ユサ ユサ
SHAKE SHAKE
A BIG ONE!
...
UH-OH...
MAYBE...
BRMM
SKREE
中央街病院

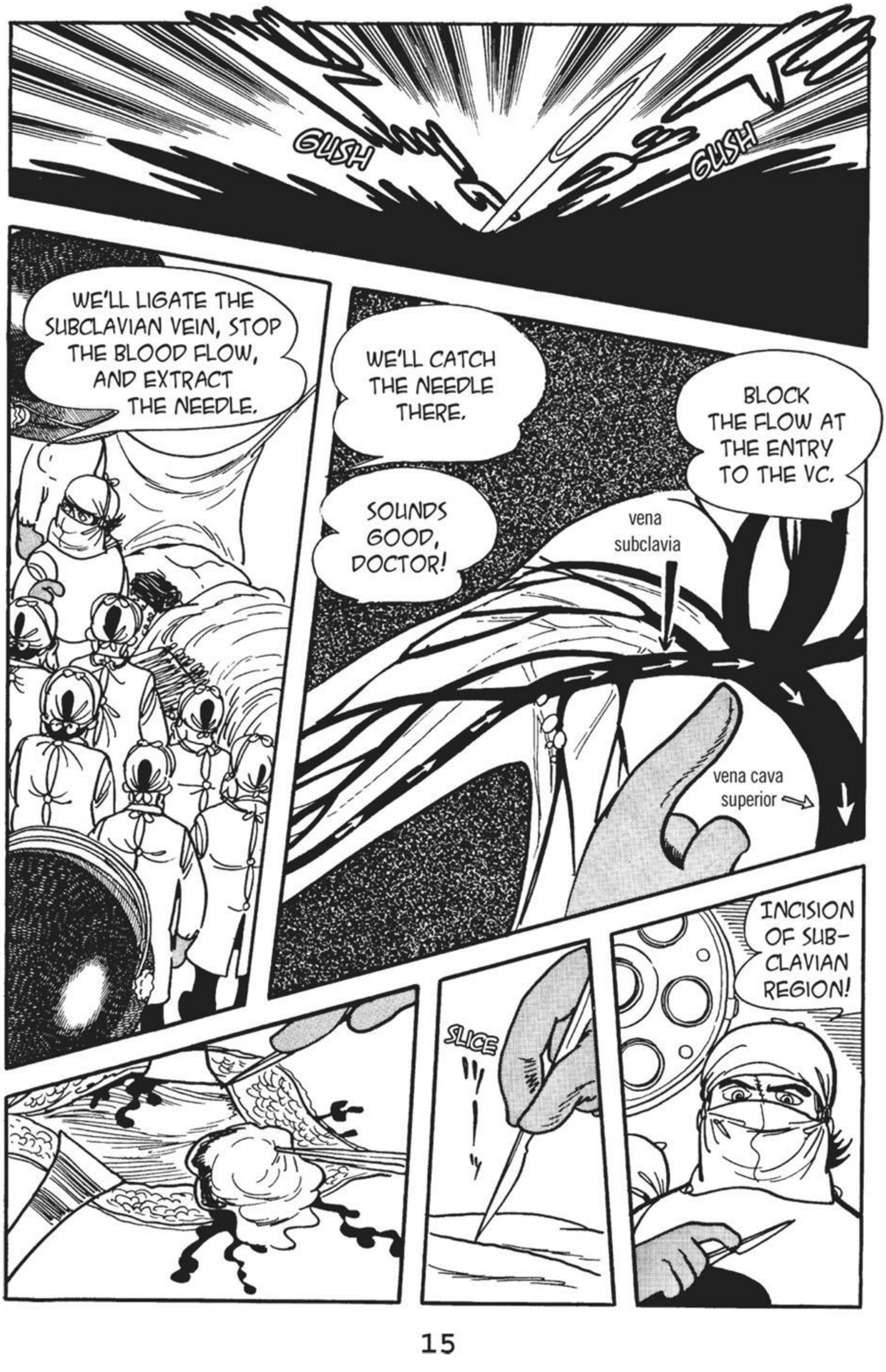

DOCTOR! THAT PATIENT...
ガヤガヤガヤ
BABBLE
WHAT HAPPENED? DON'T TELL ME THE INCISION POPPED BACK OPEN BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE.
NO... UM... WE WERE PUTTING IN THE I.V. WHEN...
THE STAND TOPPLED RIGHT ONTO HIS HAND!
THE NEEDLE BROKE.
LOOK...
THEN WHAT?!

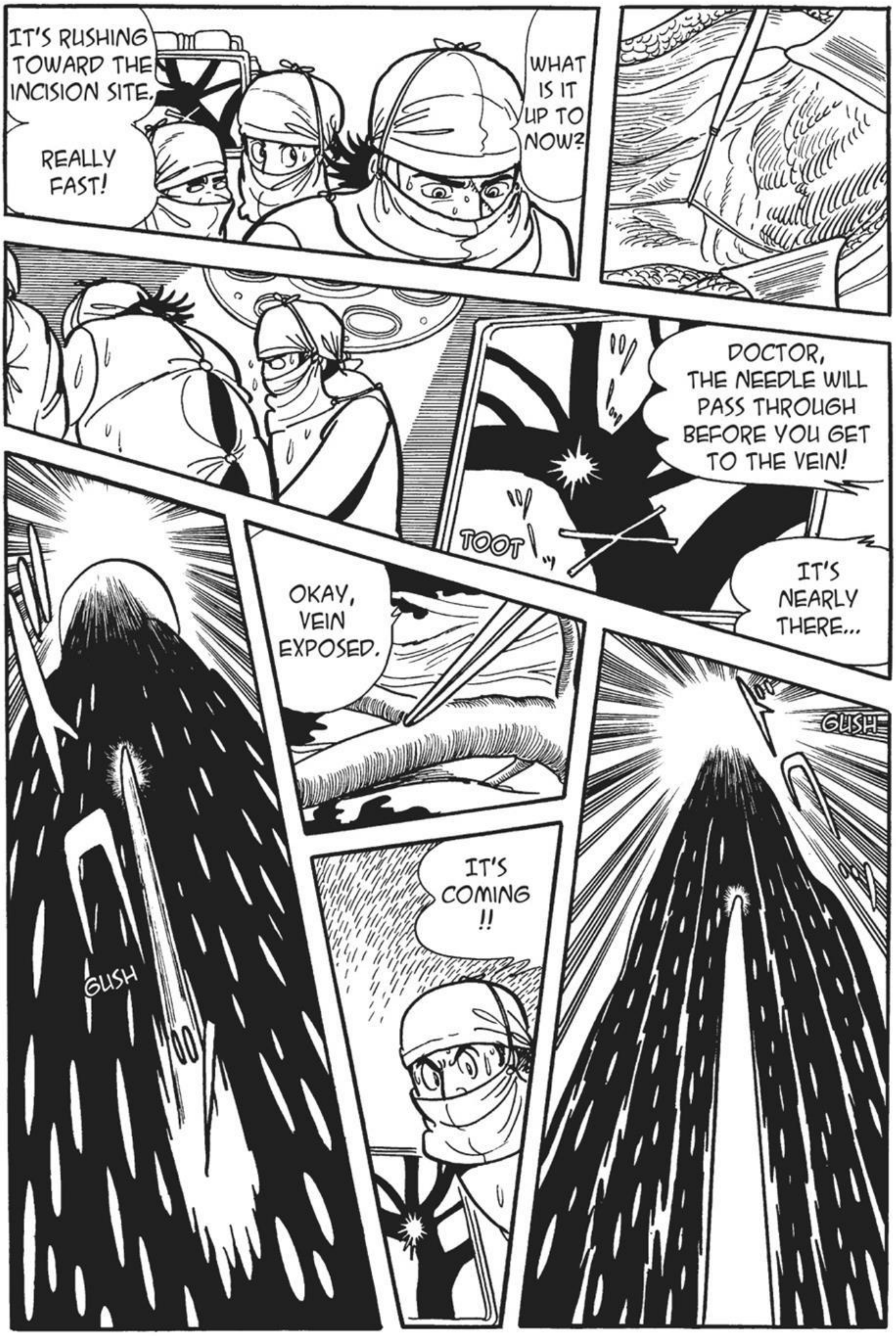

THE BROKEN TIP REMAINED IN THE PATIENT'S BODY AND IS MISSING.
WE THINK IT FLOWED DOWN THE VEIN.
!
HOGWASH!
NO REASON AN INJECTION NEEDLE SHOULD EVER SNAP!
HAVE A LOOK AT THIS X-RAY.
NOTHING LIKE THIS HAS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
THE NEEDLE TIP IS CLEARLY IN A VESSEL!
THIS ONE WAS TAKEN THIRTY SECONDS LATER.
THOUGH THE TIP SEEMS TO SNAG NOW AND THEN, SLOWLY BUT SURELY IT'S FLOWING TOWARDS THE PATIENT'S HEART.

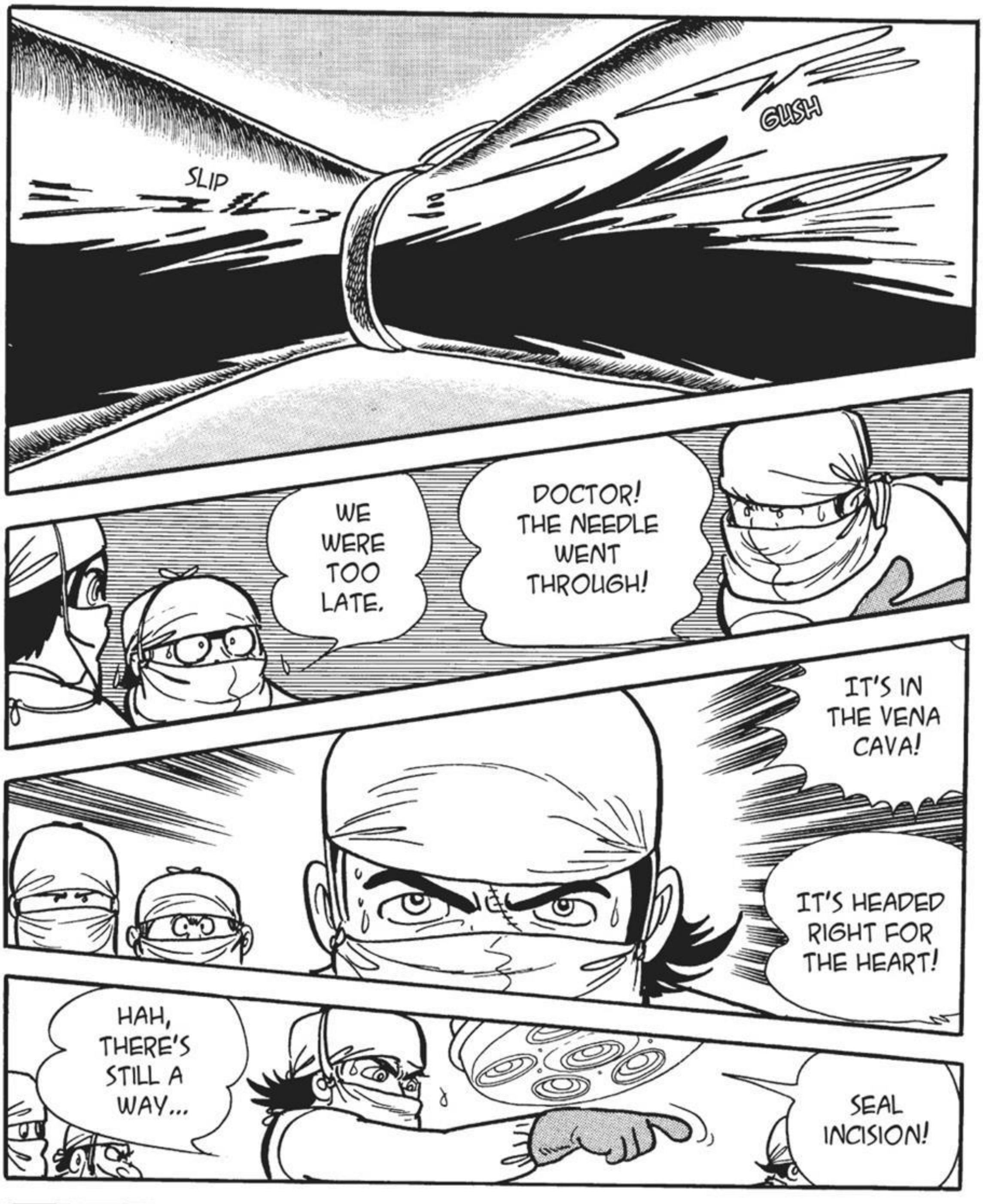

GUSH
GUSH
GUSH
IF THE TIP REACHES THE HEART ...
AND PIERCES THE HEART WALL ...
EVEN IF IT MISSES THE HEART...
IF IT SIMPLY DAMAGES A VALVE!

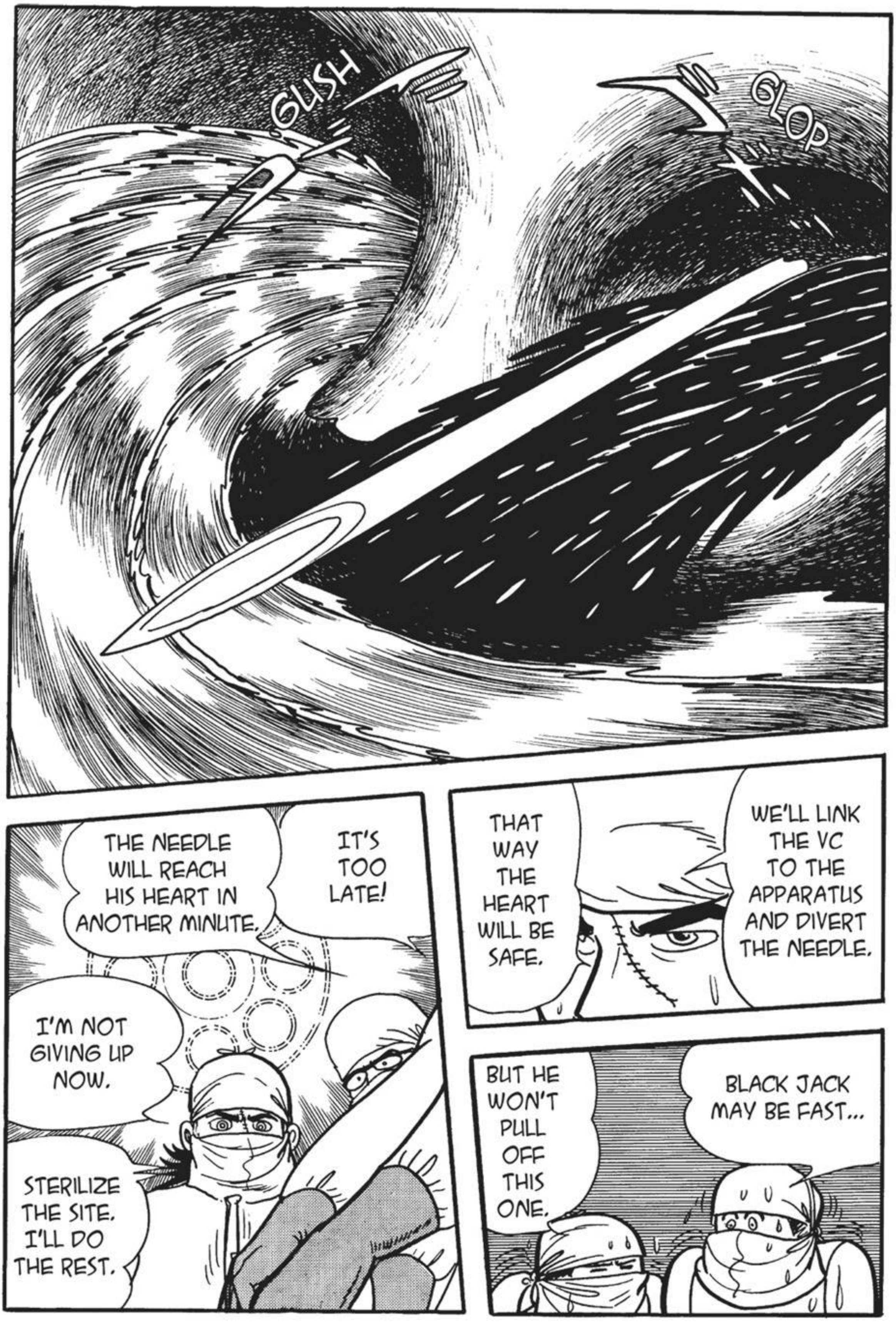

WE'VE GOT TO GET IT OUT!
WITH ENOUGH PRICKS, IT'LL CAUSE MASSIVE BLEEDING.
NEXT STOP'S THE LUNG, DOCTOR.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
UH, NO. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?
WHAT IS IT? A-A-AM I GOING TO DIE?
DANGER?! M-M-ME?
WHY LIE TO HIM?
HE'S IN GRAVE DANGER!

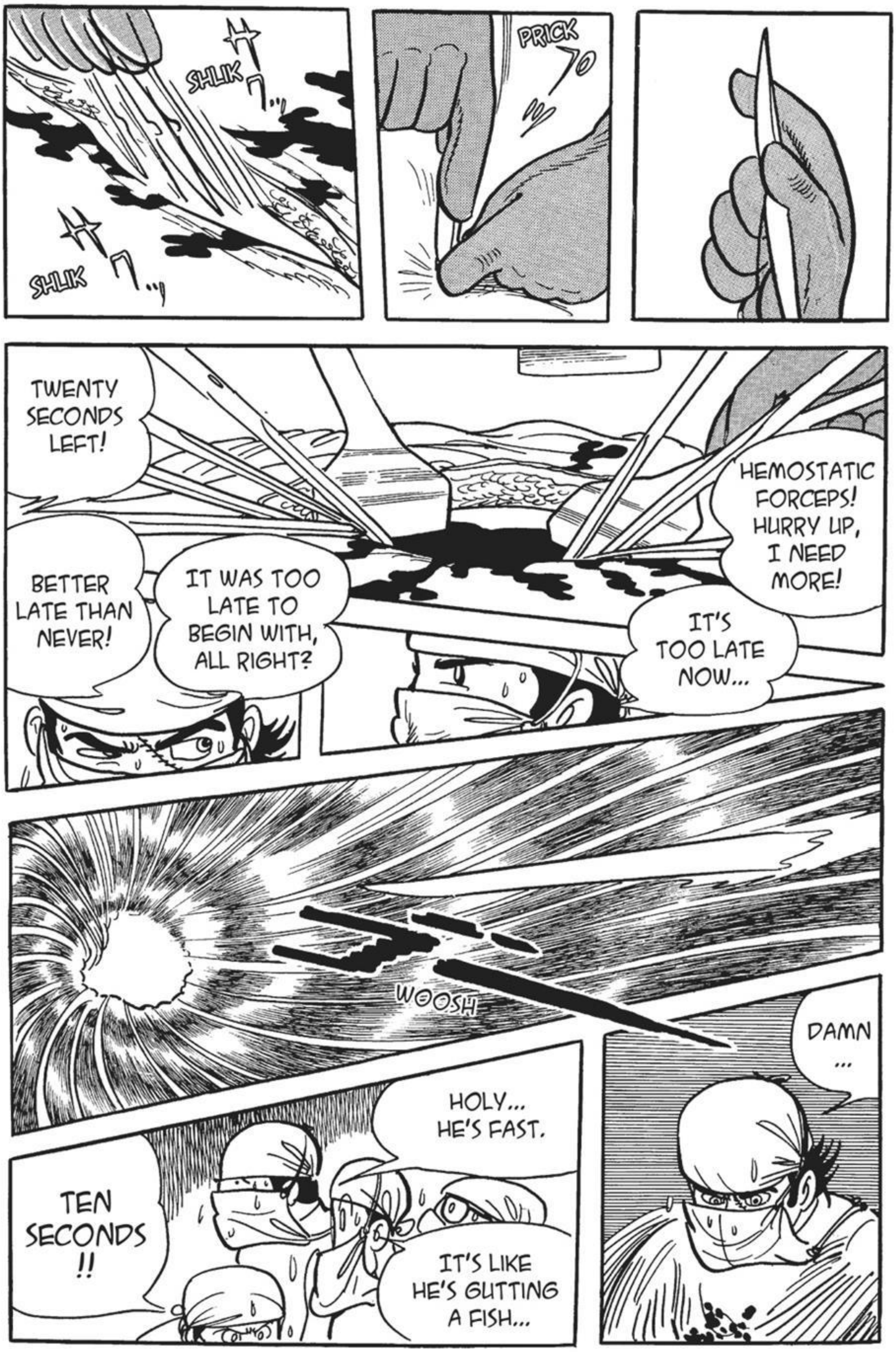

BRING IN A POWERFUL ELECTROMAGNET. POSITION IT UNDER HIS RIGHT ARM TO ATTRACT THE NEEDLE.
SLUMP
WE NEED TO OPERATE. A DIFFERENT SURGERY!
QUIET! IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE, YOU HAVE TO CALM DOWN.
TOOT
TOOT
SET UP MINIATURE RADARS TO TRACK ITS LOCATION.
WE'LL OPEN THE VEIN AND EXTRACT THE NEEDLE BEFORE IT REACHES HIS HEART!
TOOT
ONCE IT ENTERS THE VC, IT'LL BE TOO LATE TO OPERATE!
TOOT
IT'S HEADED FOR THE VENA CAVA AND THE HEART.
THERE IT IS.

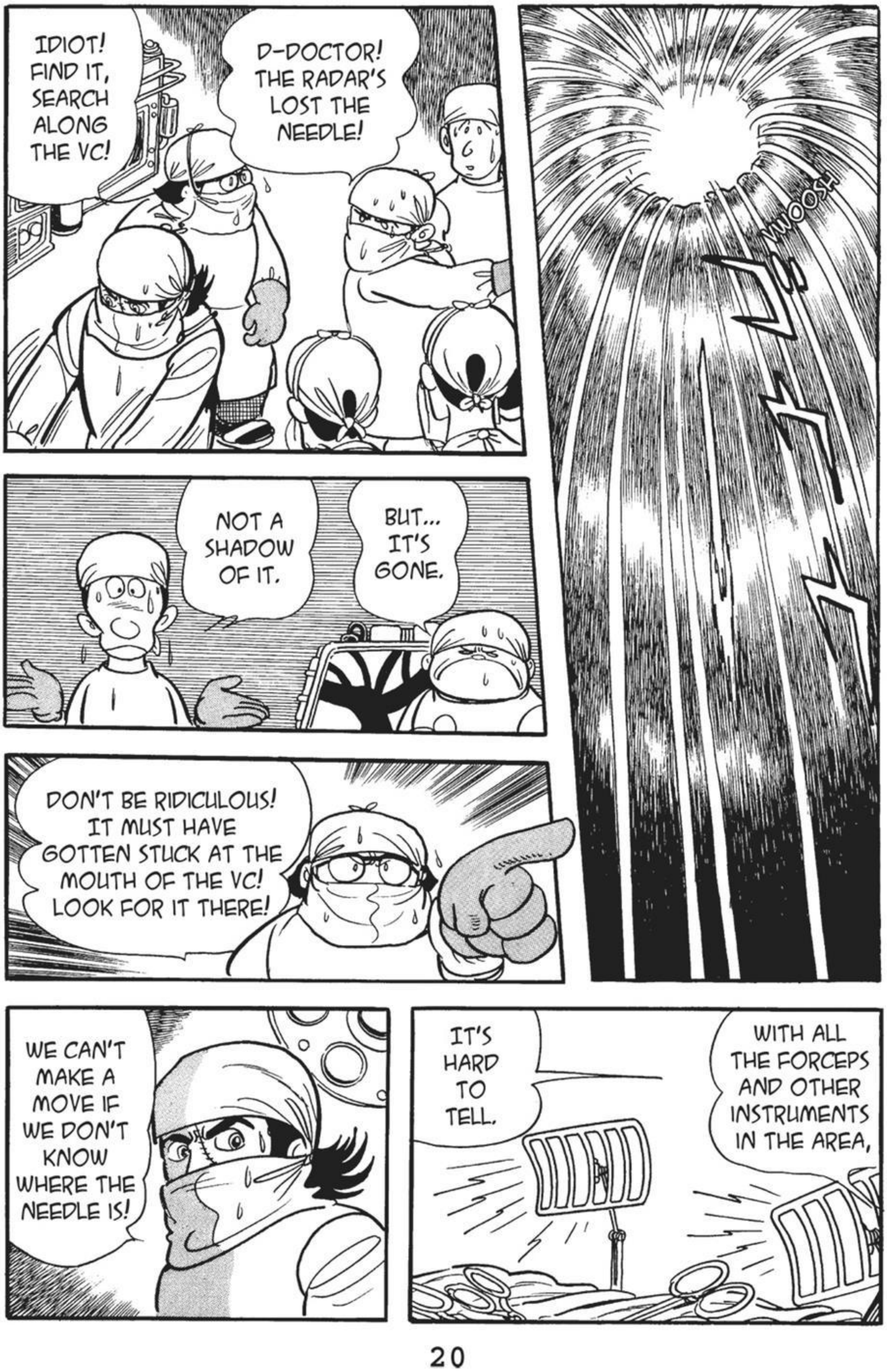

GUSH
GUSH
BLOCK THE FLOW AT THE ENTRY TO THE VC.
WE'LL CATCH THE NEEDLE THERE.
SOUNDS GOOD, DOCTOR!
vena subclavia
vena cava superior
WE'LL LIGATE THE SUBCLAVIAN VEIN, STOP THE BLOOD FLOW, AND EXTRACT THE NEEDLE.
INCISION OF SUB-CLAVIAN REGION!
SLICE

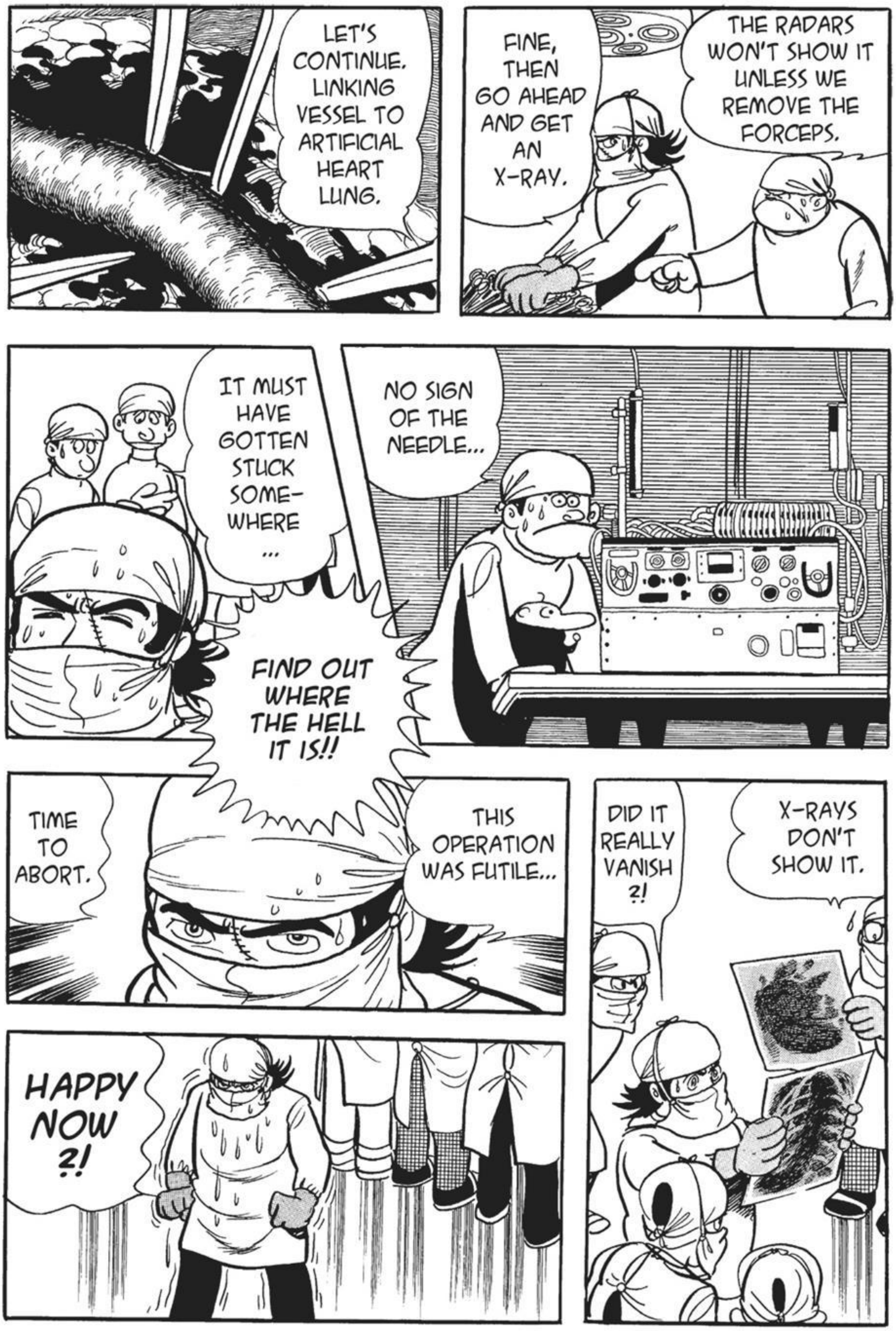

IT'S RUSHING TOWARD THE INCISION SITE.
REALLY FAST!
WHAT IS IT UP TO NOW?
DOCTOR, THE NEEDLE WILL PASS THROUGH BEFORE YOU GET TO THE VEIN!
TOOT
IT'S NEARLY THERE...
OKAY, VEIN EXPOSED.
GUSH
IT'S COMING !!
GUSH

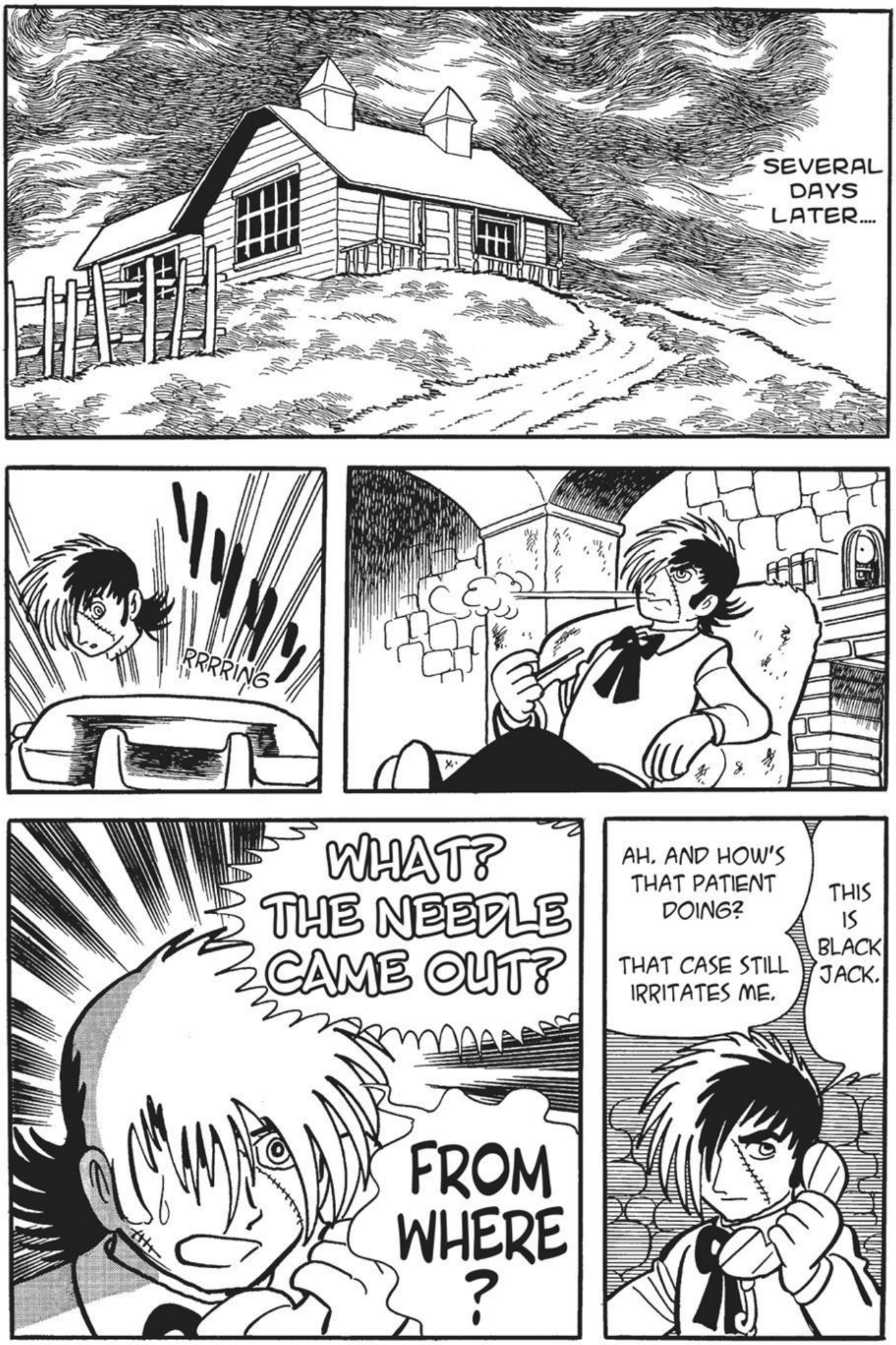

SLIP
GUSH
WE WERE TOO LATE.
DOCTOR! THE NEEDLE WENT THROUGH!
IT'S IN THE VENA CAVA!
IT'S HEADED RIGHT FOR THE HEART!
HAH, THERE'S STILL A WAY...
SEAL INCISION!
PREPARE ARTIFICIAL HEART LUNG! QUICK!

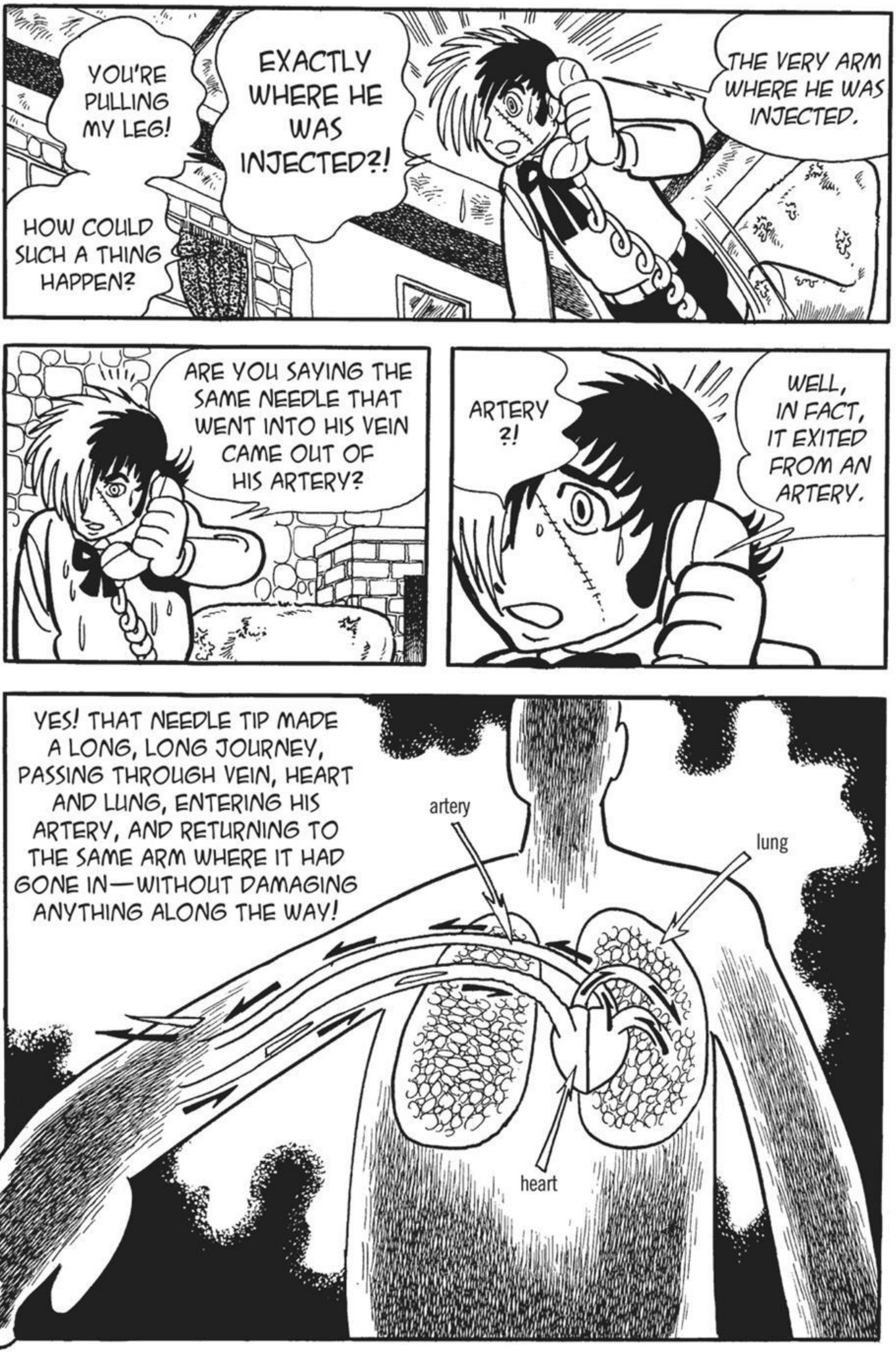

GLOP
GUSH
WE'LL LINK THE VC TO THE APPARATUS AND DIVERT THE NEEDLE.
THAT WAY THE HEART WILL BE SAFE.
BLACK JACK MAY BE FAST...
BUT HE WON'T PULL OFF THIS ONE.
IT'S TOO LATE!
THE NEEDLE WILL REACH HIS HEART IN ANOTHER MINUTE.
I'M NOT GIVING UP NOW.
STERILIZE THE SITE. I'LL DO THE REST.

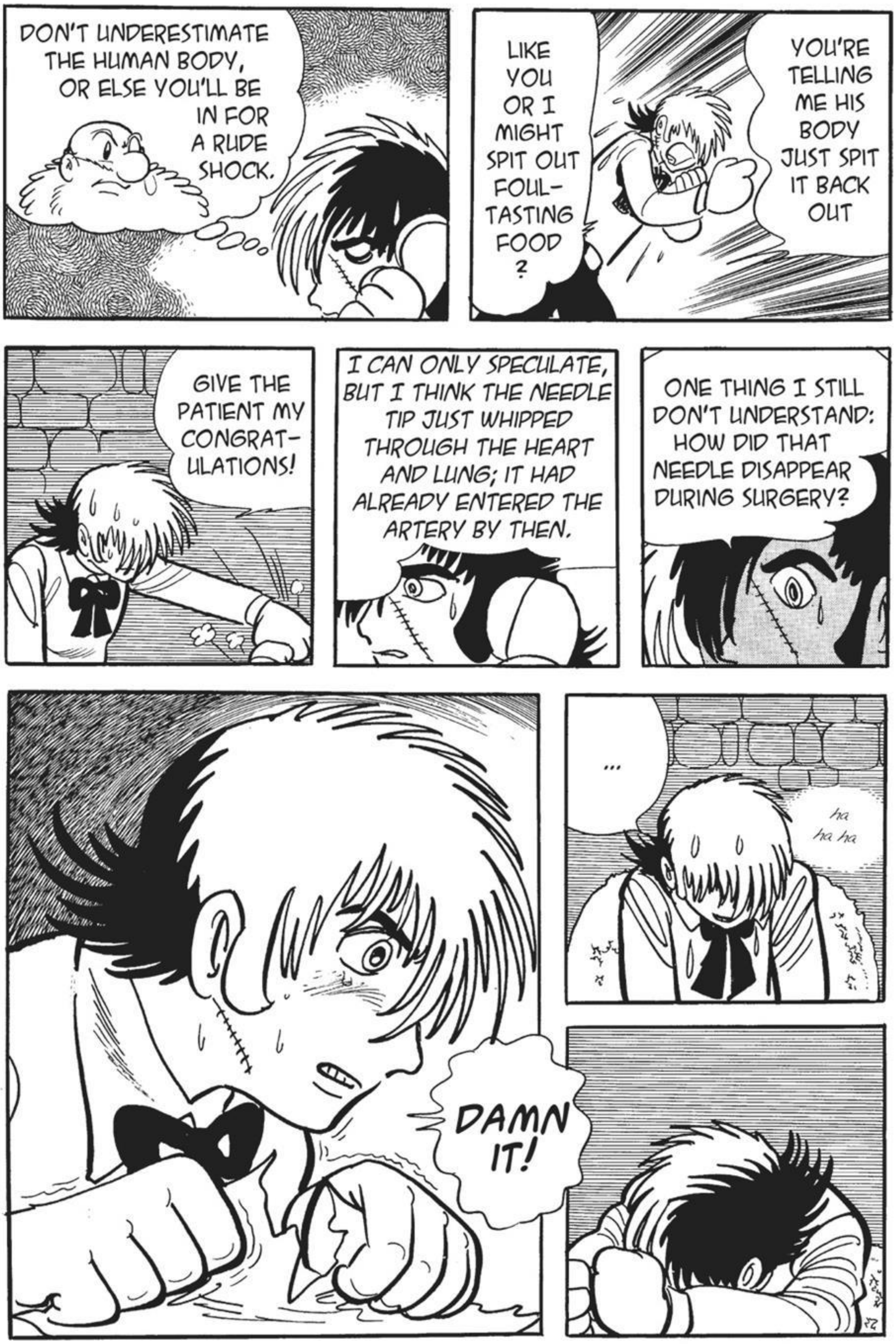

SHLIK
SHLIK
PRICK
TWENTY SECONDS LEFT!
HEMOSTATIC FORCEPS! HURRY UP, I NEED MORE!
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!
IT WAS TOO LATE TO BEGIN WITH, ALL RIGHT?
IT'S TOO LATE NOW...
WOOSH
HOLY... HE'S FAST.
TEN SECONDS !!
IT'S LIKE HE'S GUTTING A FISH...
DAMN ...


WOOSH
D-DOCTOR! THE RADAR'S LOST THE NEEDLE!
IDIOT! FIND IT, SEARCH ALONG THE VC!
BUT... IT'S GONE.
NOT A SHADOW OF IT.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! IT MUST HAVE GOTTEN STUCK AT THE MOUTH OF THE VC! LOOK FOR IT THERE!
WITH ALL THE FORCEPS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS IN THE AREA,
IT'S HARD TO TELL.
WE CAN'T MAKE A MOVE IF WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE NEEDLE IS!

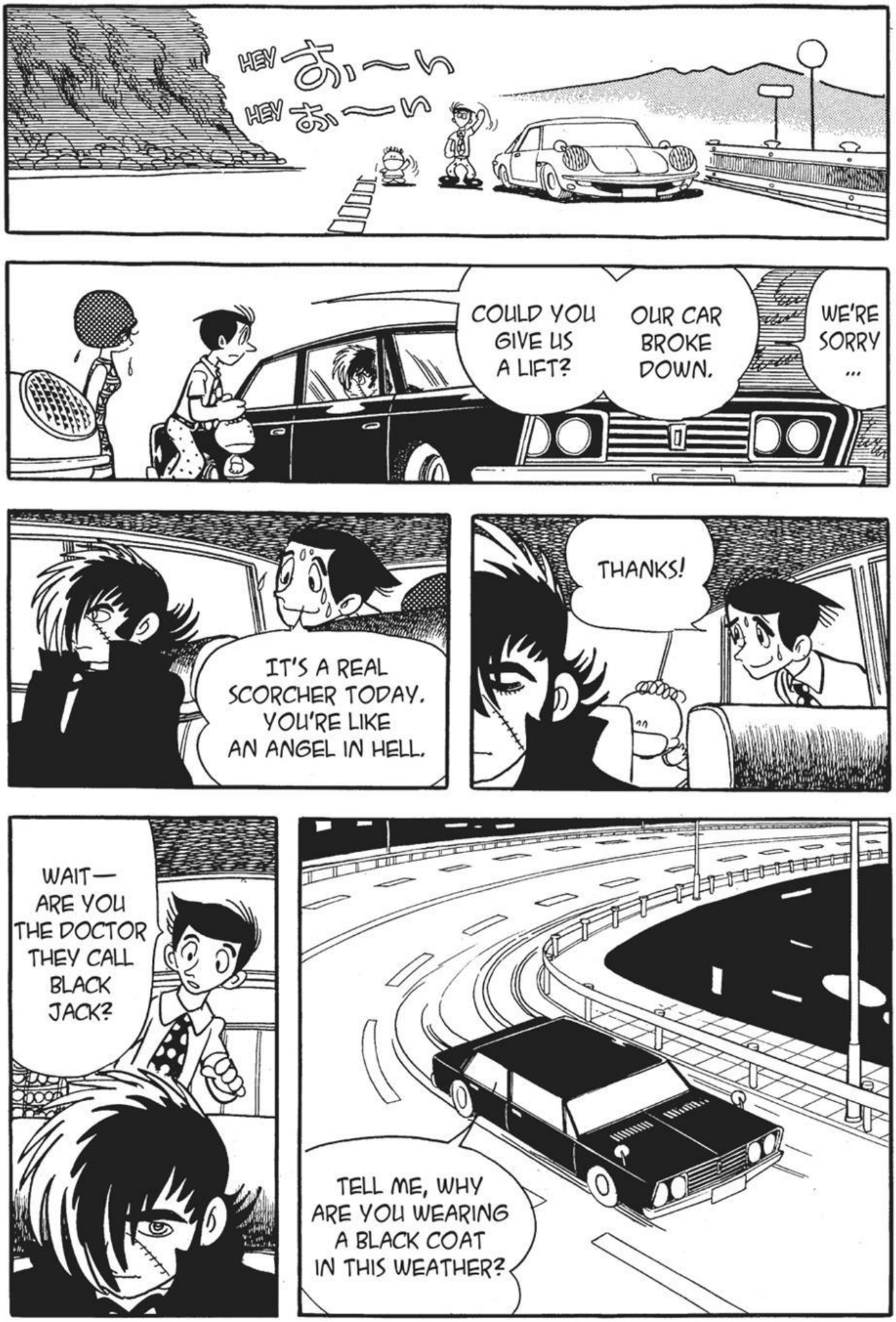

LET'S CONTINUE. LINKING VESSEL TO ARTIFICIAL HEART LUNG.
THE RADARS WON'T SHOW IT UNLESS WE REMOVE THE FORCEPS.
FINE, THEN GO AHEAD AND GET AN X-RAY.
NO SIGN OF THE NEEDLE...
IT MUST HAVE GOTTEN STUCK SOMEWHERE ...
FIND OUT WHERE THE HELL IT IS!!
X-RAYS DON'T SHOW IT.
DID IT REALLY VANISH ?!
THIS OPERATION WAS FUTILE...
TIME TO ABORT.
HAPPY NOW ?!

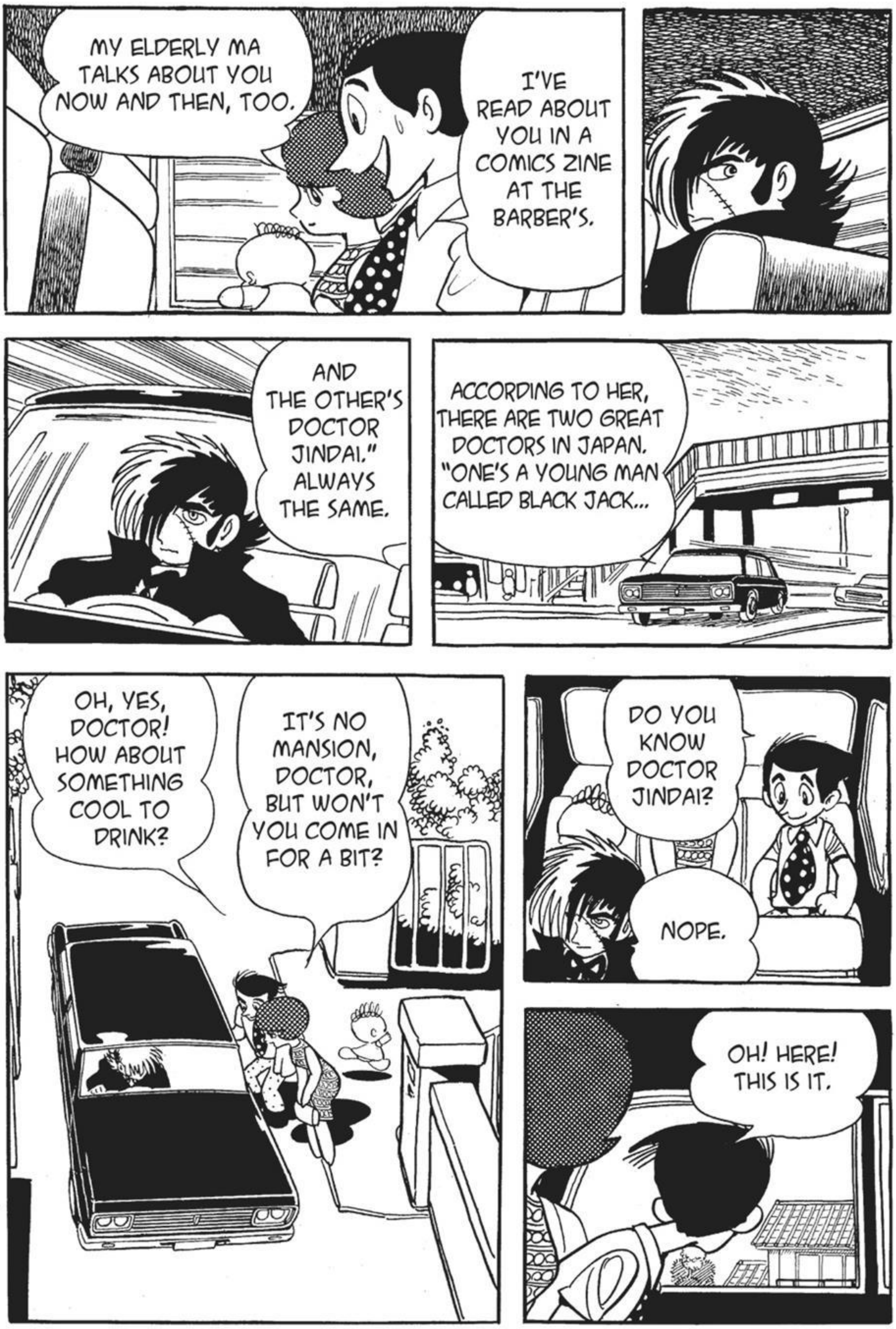

SEVERAL DAYS LATER....
RRRRING
THIS IS BLACK JACK.
AH. AND HOW'S THAT PATIENT DOING?
THAT CASE STILL IRRITATES ME.
WHAT? THE NEEDLE CAME OUT?
FROM WHERE ?

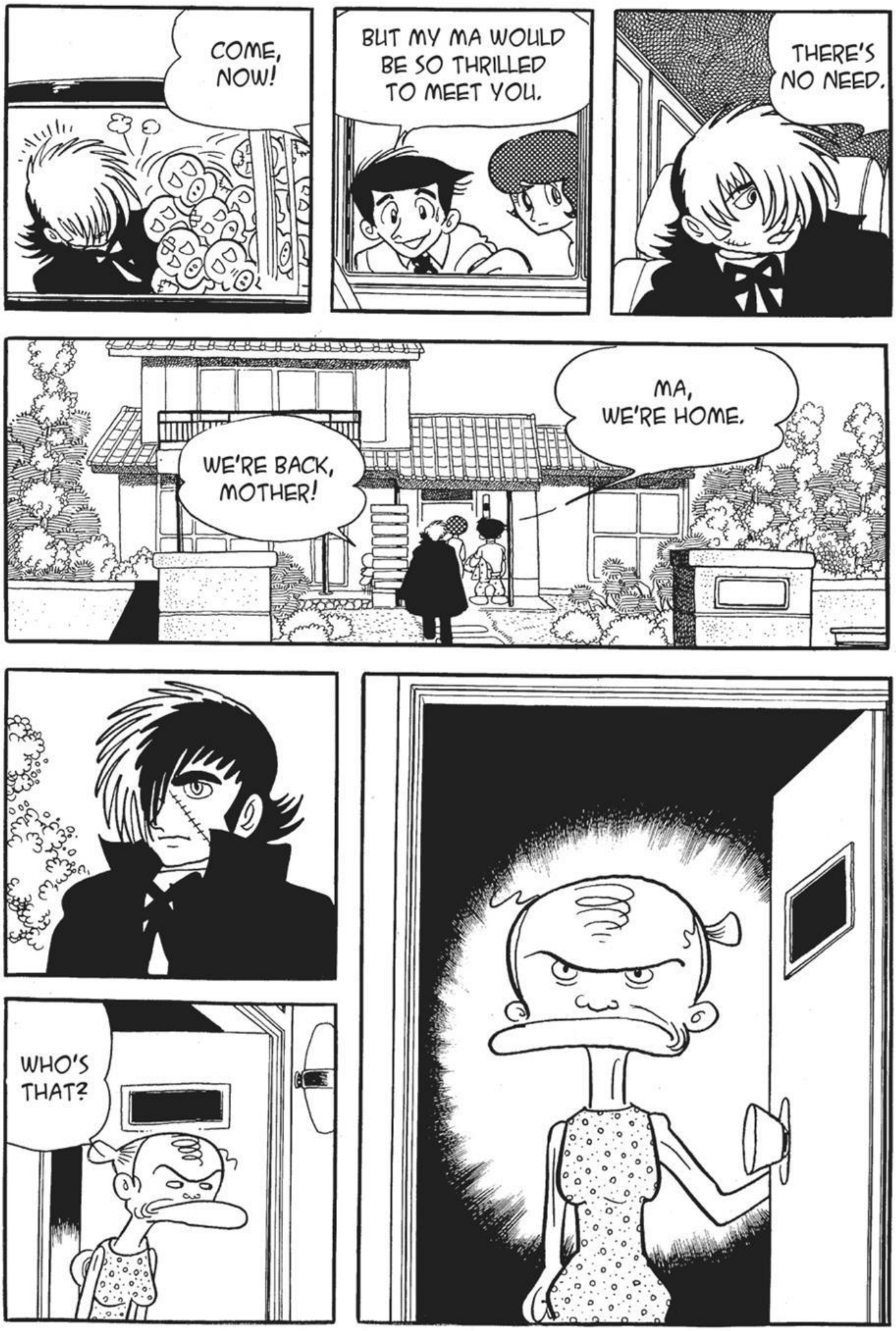

THE VERY ARM WHERE HE WAS INJECTED.
EXACTLY WHERE HE WAS INJECTED?!
YOU'RE PULLING MY LEG!
HOW COULD SUCH A THING HAPPEN?
ARE YOU SAYING THE SAME NEEDLE THAT WENT INTO HIS VEIN CAME OUT OF HIS ARTERY?
WELL, IN FACT, IT EXITED FROM AN ARTERY.
ARTERY ?!
YES! THAT NEEDLE TIP MADE A LONG, LONG JOURNEY, PASSING THROUGH VEIN, HEART AND LUNG, ENTERING HIS ARTERY, AND RETURNING TO THE SAME ARM WHERE IT HAD GONE IN—WITHOUT DAMAGING ANYTHING ALONG THE WAY!
artery
lung
heart

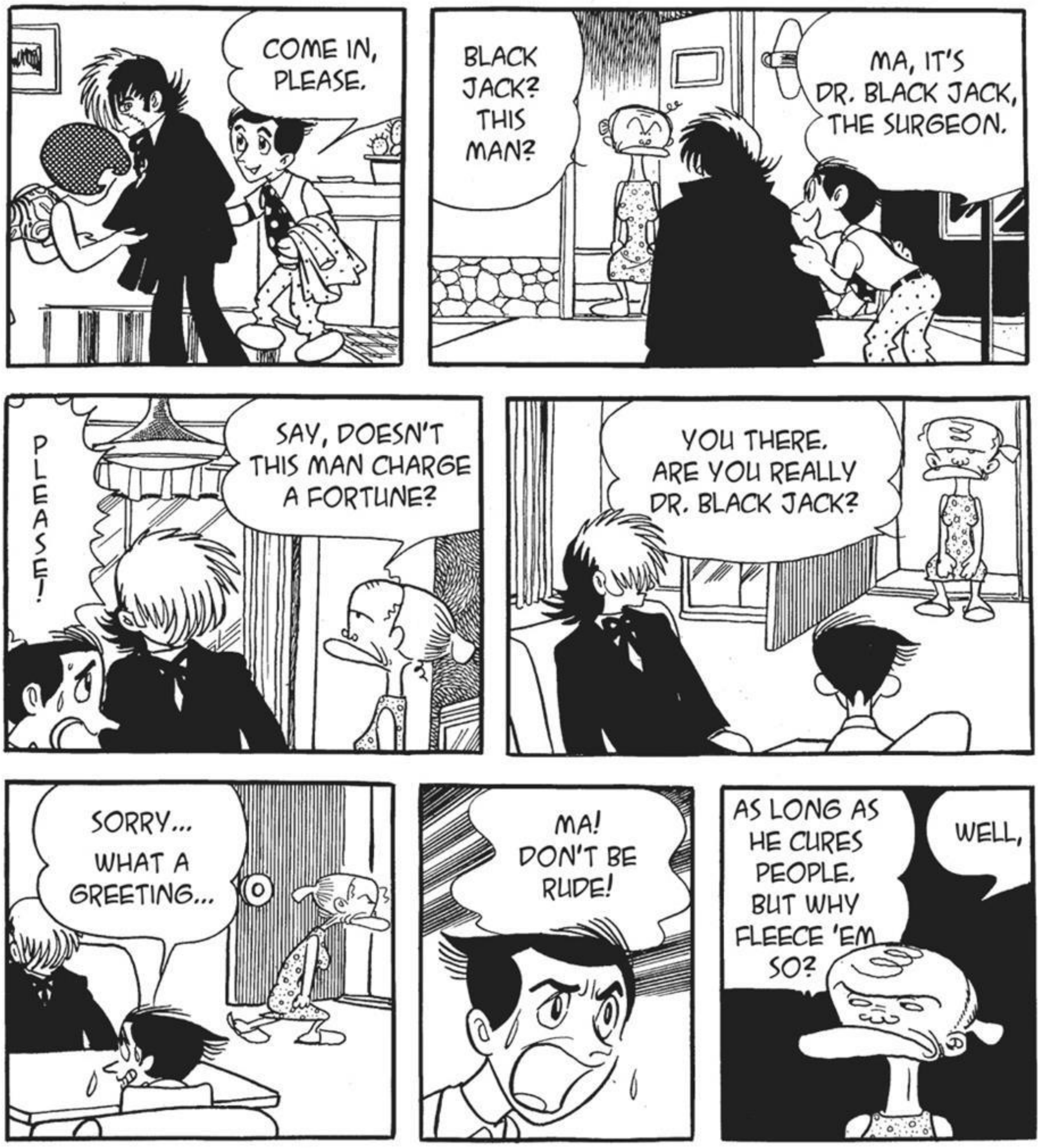

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE HUMAN BODY, OR ELSE YOU'LL BE IN FOR A RUDE SHOCK.
YOU'RE TELLING ME HIS BODY JUST SPIT IT BACK OUT
LIKE YOU OR I MIGHT SPIT OUT FOUL-TASTING FOOD?
GIVE THE PATIENT MY CONGRATULATIONS!
I CAN ONLY SPECULATE, BUT I THINK THE NEEDLE TIP JUST WHIPPED THROUGH THE HEART AND LUNG; IT HAD ALREADY ENTERED THE ARTERY BY THEN.
ONE THING I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND: HOW DID THAT NEEDLE DISAPPEAR DURING SURGERY?
...
ha ha ha
DAMN IT!

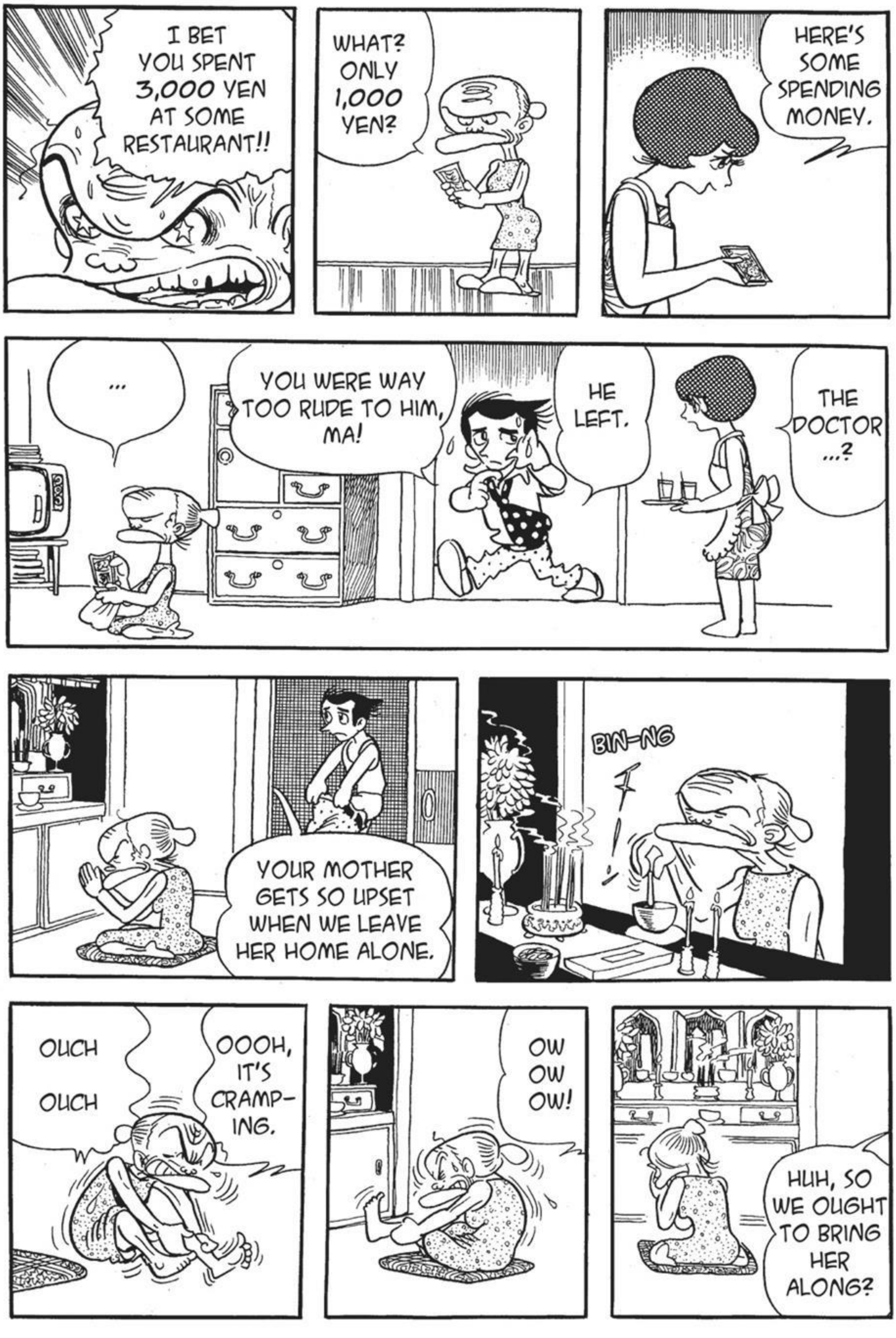
GRANNY

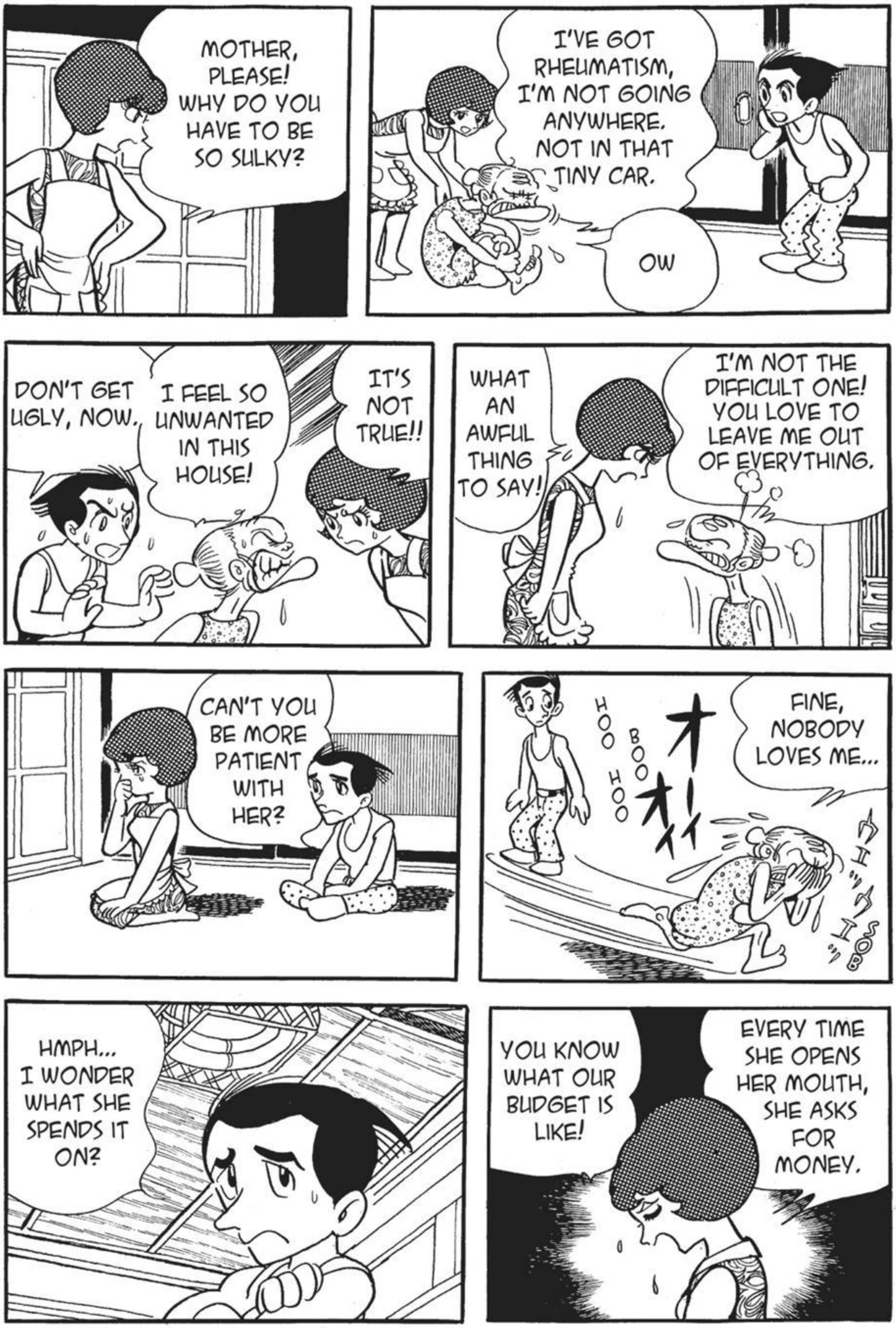

HEY おーい
HEY おーい
WE'RE SORRY ...
OUR CAR BROKE DOWN.
COULD YOU GIVE US A LIFT?
THANKS!
IT'S A REAL SCORCHER TODAY. YOU'RE LIKE AN ANGEL IN HELL.
TELL ME, WHY ARE YOU WEARING A BLACK COAT IN THIS WEATHER?
WAIT— ARE YOU THE DOCTOR THEY CALL BLACK JACK?

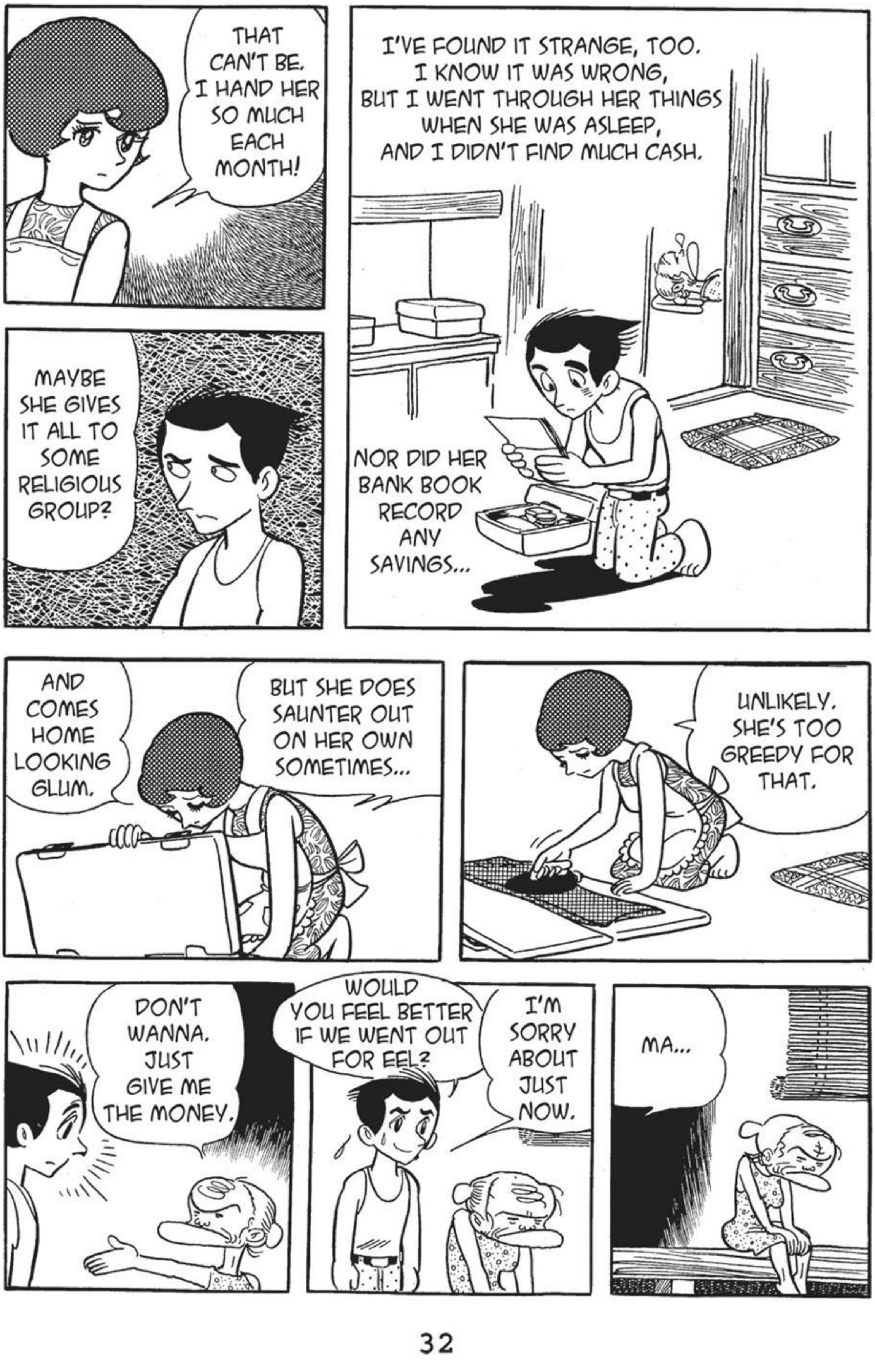

I'VE READ ABOUT YOU IN A COMICS ZINE AT THE BARBER'S.
MY ELDERLY MA TALKS ABOUT YOU NOW AND THEN, TOO.
ACCORDING TO HER, THERE ARE TWO GREAT DOCTORS IN JAPAN. "ONE'S A YOUNG MAN CALLED BLACK JACK...
AND THE OTHER'S DOCTOR JINDAI." ALWAYS THE SAME.
DO YOU KNOW DOCTOR JINDAI?
NOPE.
OH! HERE! THIS IS IT.
IT'S NO MANSION, DOCTOR, BUT WON'T YOU COME IN FOR A BIT?
OH, YES, DOCTOR! HOW ABOUT SOMETHING COOL TO DRINK?

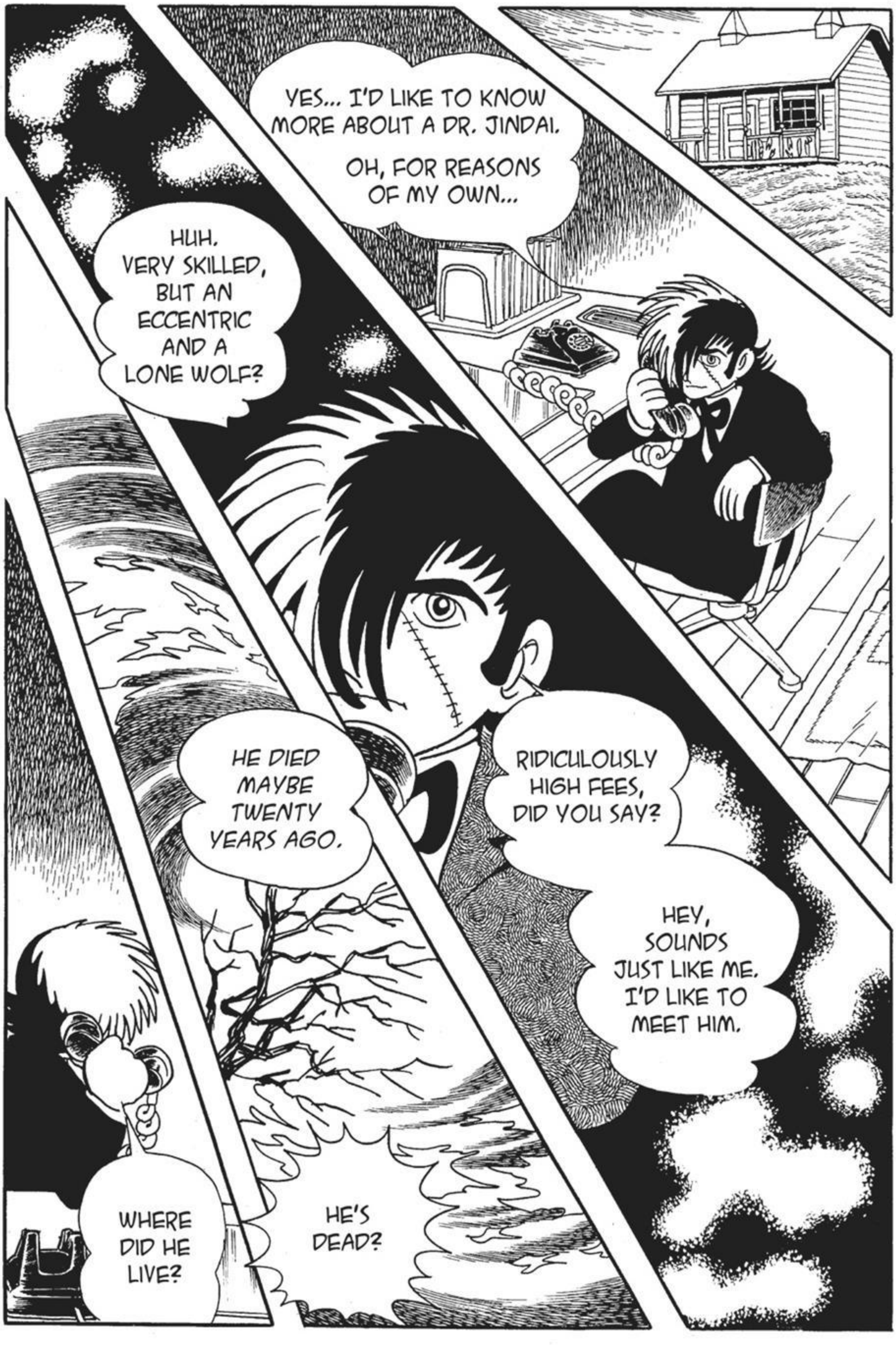

COME, NOW!
BUT MY MA WOULD BE SO THRILLED TO MEET YOU.
THERE'S NO NEED.
WE'RE BACK, MOTHER!
MA, WE'RE HOME.
WHO'S THAT?

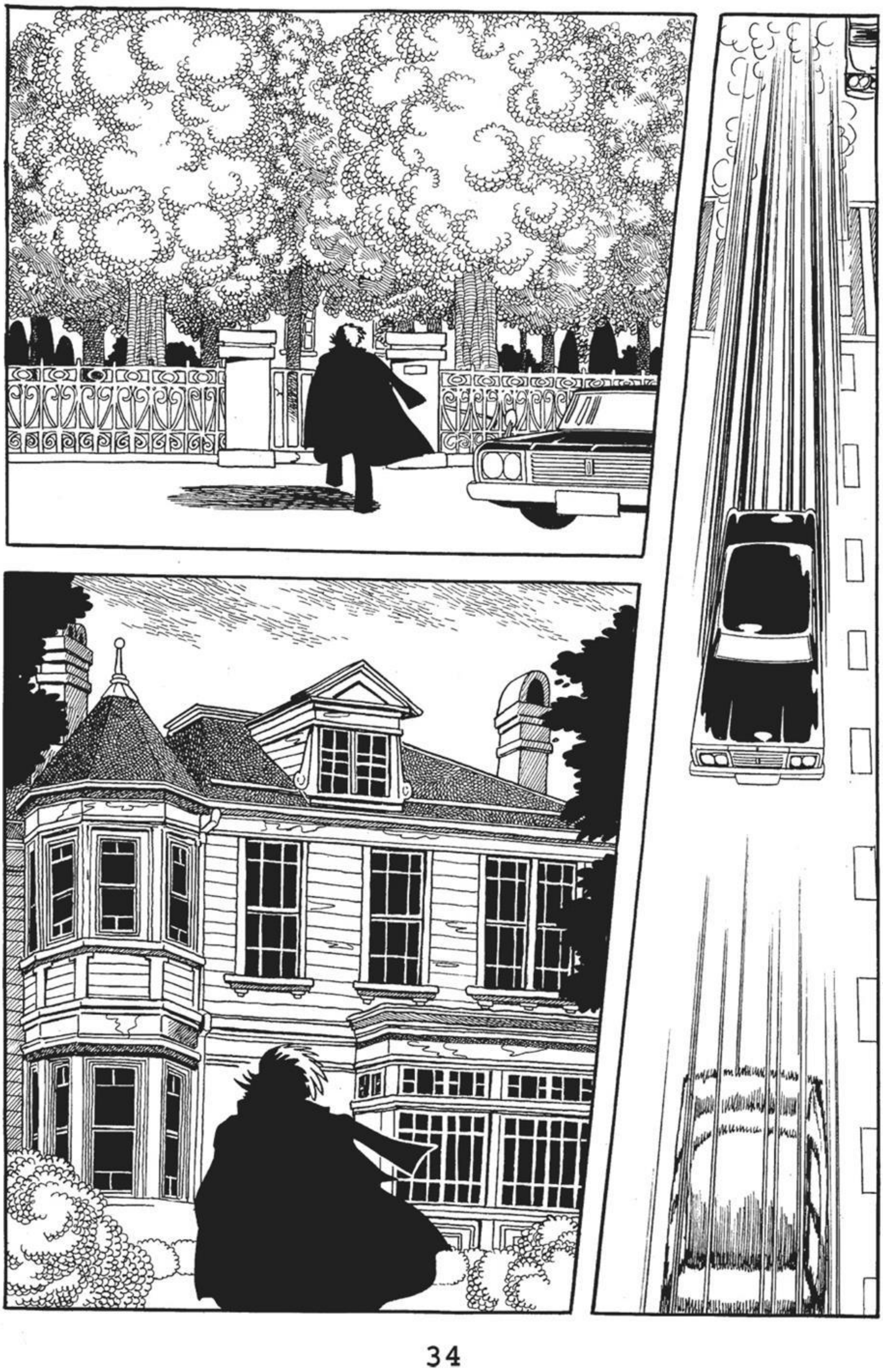

COME IN, PLEASE.
MA, IT'S DR. BLACK JACK, THE SURGEON.
BLACK JACK? THIS MAN?
SAY, DOESN'T THIS MAN CHARGE A FORTUNE?
PLEASE!
YOU THERE. ARE YOU REALLY DR. BLACK JACK?
SORRY... WHAT A GREETING...
MA! DON'T BE RUDE!
WELL,
AS LONG AS HE CURES PEOPLE. BUT WHY FLEECE 'EM SO?
WHILE YOU HAD A NICE DRIVE, I HAD TO STAY HERE IN THIS HOT OLD HOUSE.
NOT SO LOUD!
RITSUKO, PAY ME.
I TOOK CARE OF THE HOUSE.
SHH! WE HAVE A GUEST.

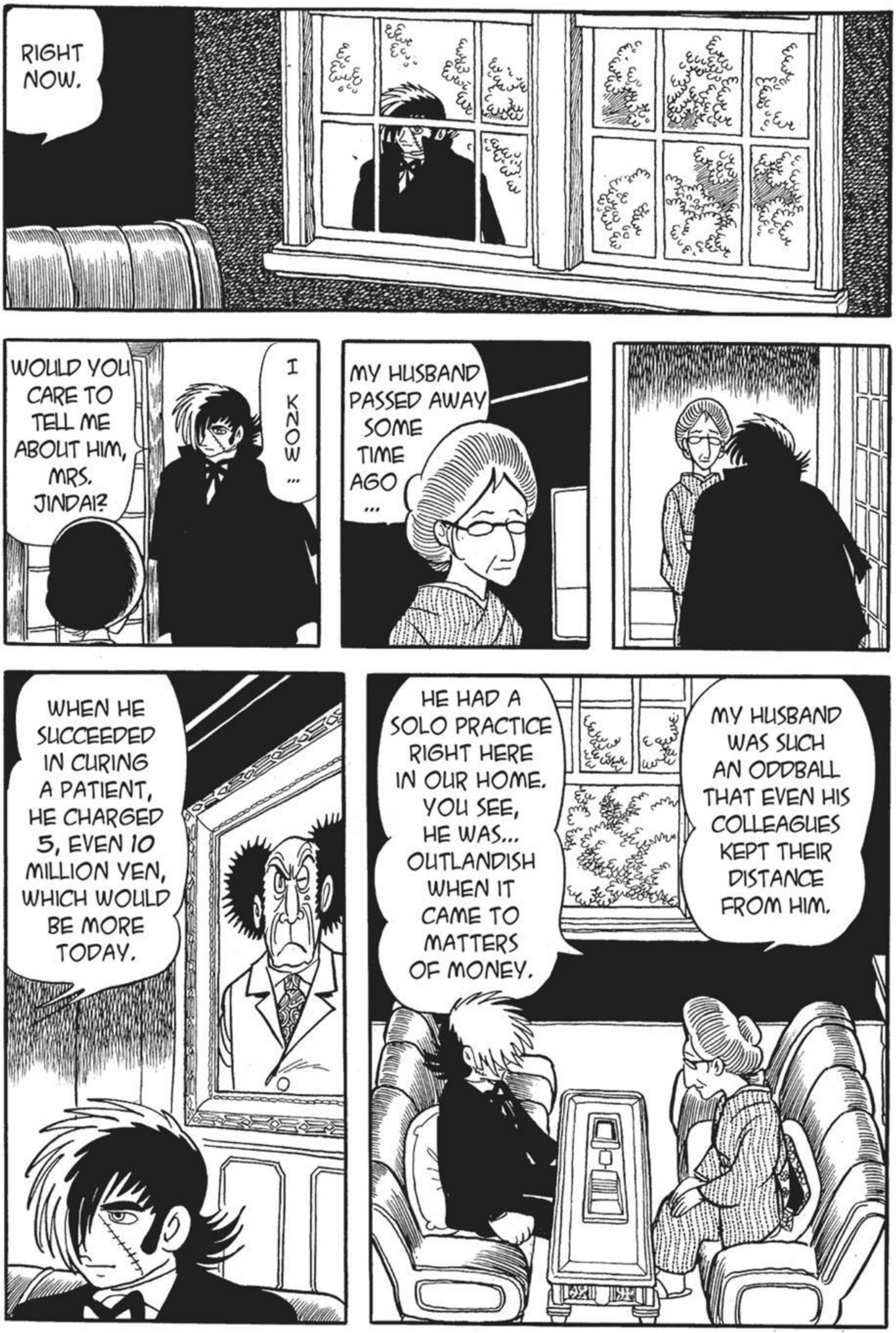

HERE'S SOME SPENDING MONEY.
WHAT? ONLY 1,000 YEN?
I BET YOU SPENT 3,000 YEN AT SOME RESTAURANT!!
THE DOCTOR ...?
HE LEFT.
YOU WERE WAY TOO RUDE TO HIM, MA!
...
BIN-NG
YOUR MOTHER GETS SO UPSET WHEN WE LEAVE HER HOME ALONE.
HUH, SO WE OUGHT TO BRING HER ALONG?
OW OW OW!
OOOH, IT'S CRAMPING.
OUCH
OUCH

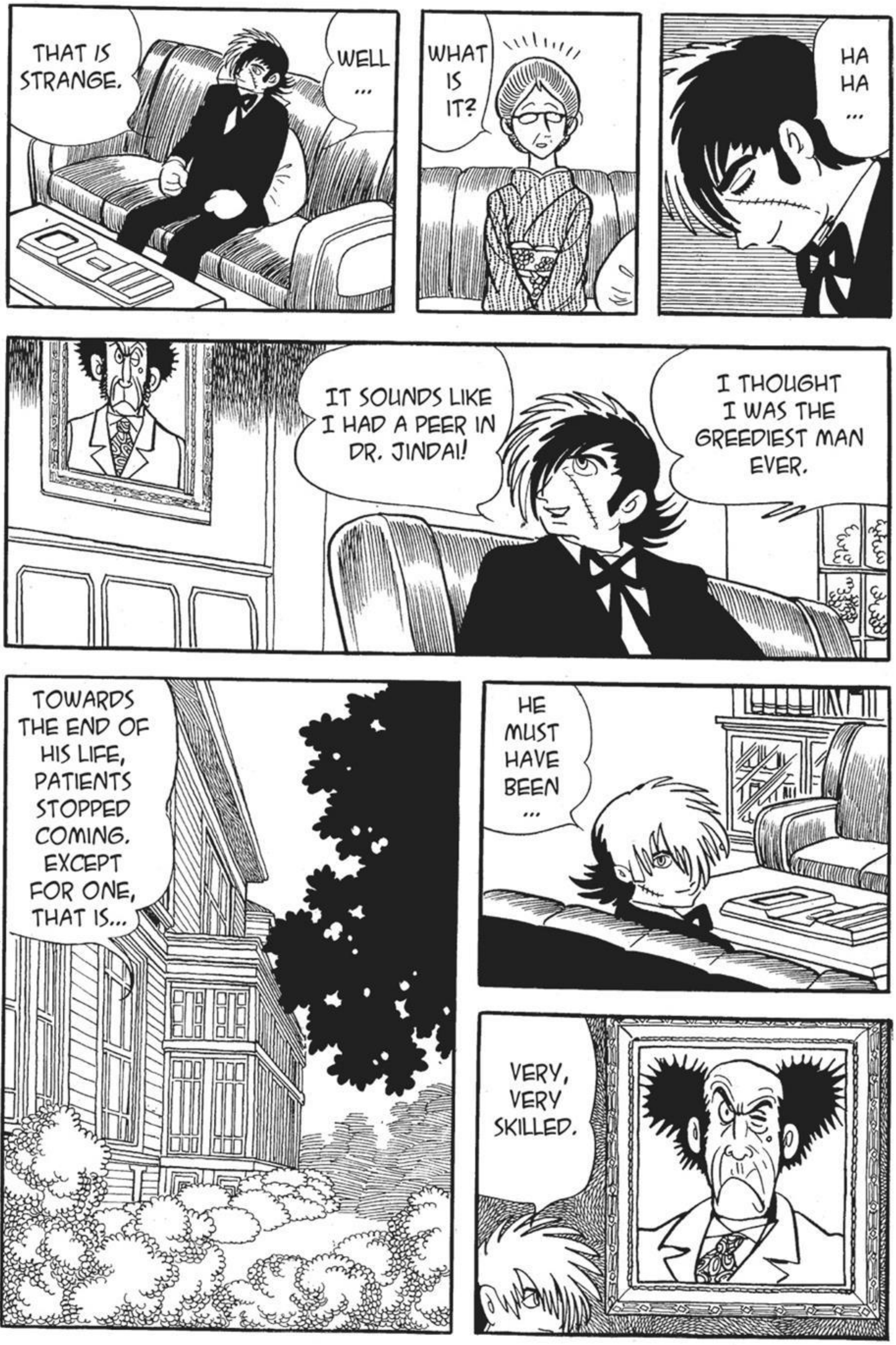

MOTHER, PLEASE! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO SULKY?
I'VE GOT RHEUMATISM, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE. NOT IN THAT TINY CAR.
OW
DON'T GET UGLY, NOW.
I FEEL SO UNWANTED IN THIS HOUSE!
IT'S NOT TRUE!!
WHAT AN AWFUL THING TO SAY!
I'M NOT THE DIFFICULT ONE! YOU LOVE TO LEAVE ME OUT OF EVERYTHING.
CAN'T YOU BE MORE PATIENT WITH HER?
HOO HOO
BOO HOO
オーイイ
FINE, NOBODY LOVES ME...
ウエッウエッ
SOB
HMPH... I WONDER WHAT SHE SPENDS IT ON?
YOU KNOW WHAT OUR BUDGET IS LIKE!
EVERY TIME SHE OPENS HER MOUTH, SHE ASKS FOR MONEY.

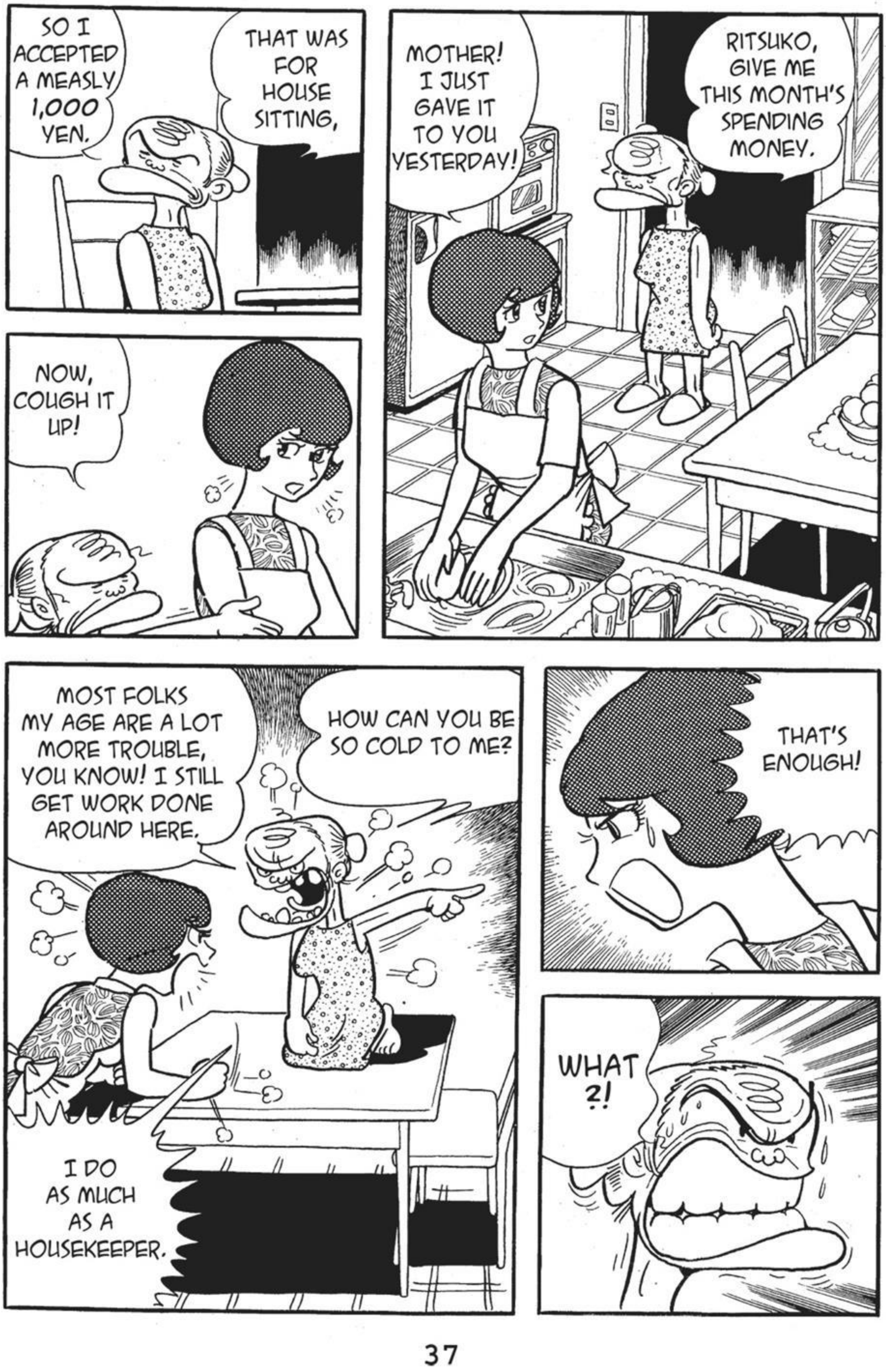

THAT CAN'T BE. I HAND HER SO MUCH EACH MONTH!
I'VE FOUND IT STRANGE, TOO. I KNOW IT WAS WRONG, BUT I WENT THROUGH HER THINGS WHEN SHE WAS ASLEEP, AND I DIDN'T FIND MUCH CASH.
NOR DID HER BANK BOOK RECORD ANY SAVINGS...
MAYBE SHE GIVES IT ALL TO SOME RELIGIOUS GROUP?
BUT SHE DOES SAUNTER OUT ON HER OWN SOMETIMES...
AND COMES HOME LOOKING GLUM.
UNLIKELY. SHE'S TOO GREEDY FOR THAT.
I'M SORRY ABOUT JUST NOW.
WOULD YOU FEEL BETTER IF WE WENT OUT FOR EEL?
DON'T WANNA. JUST GIVE ME THE MONEY.
MA...

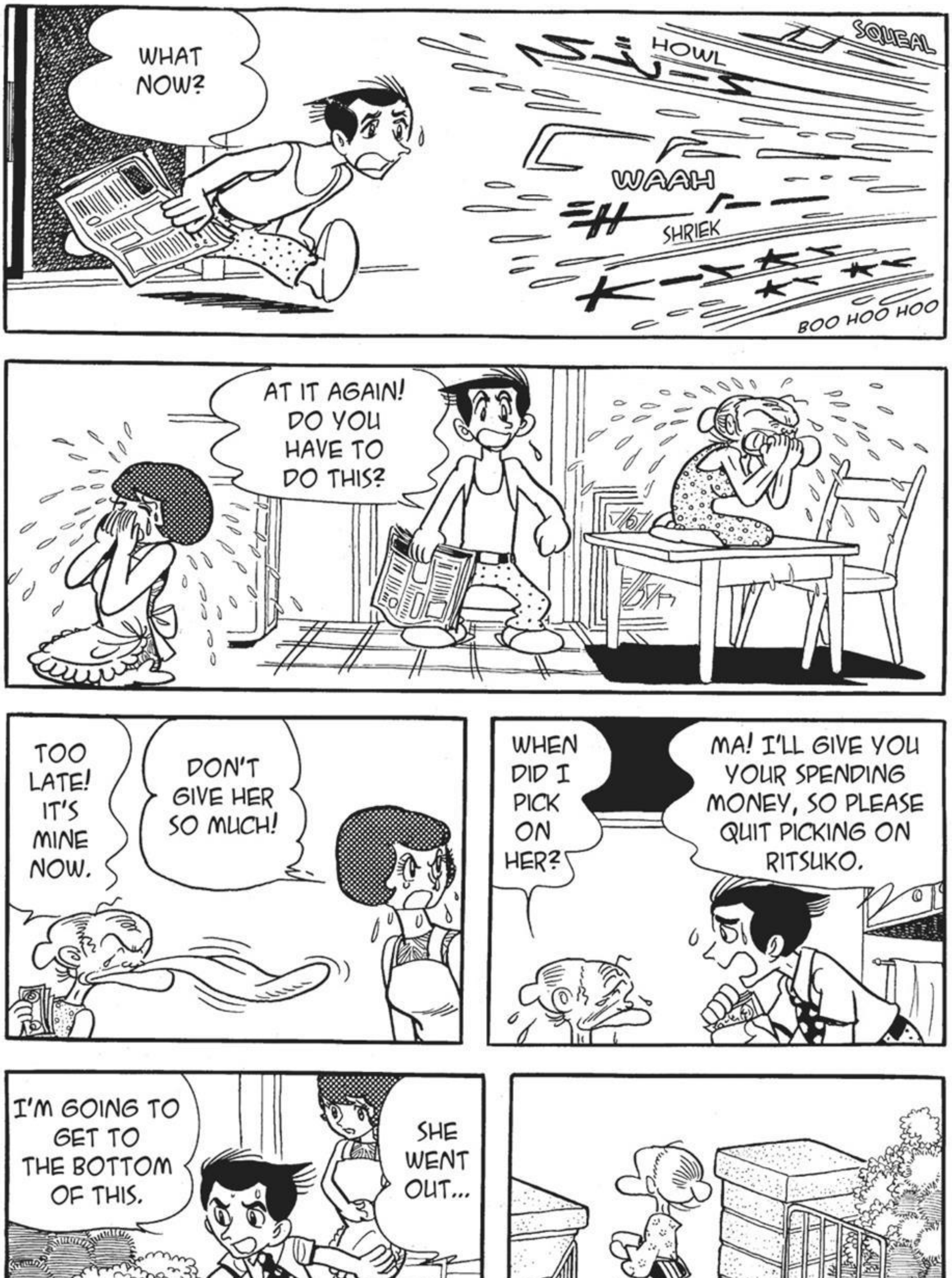

YES... I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT A DR. JINDAI.
OH, FOR REASONS OF MY OWN...
HUH. VERY SKILLED, BUT AN ECCENTRIC AND A LONE WOLF?
RIDICULOUSLY HIGH FEES, DID YOU SAY?
HEY, SOUNDS JUST LIKE ME. I'D LIKE TO MEET HIM.
HE DIED MAYBE TWENTY YEARS AGO.
HE'S DEAD?
WHERE DID HE LIVE?

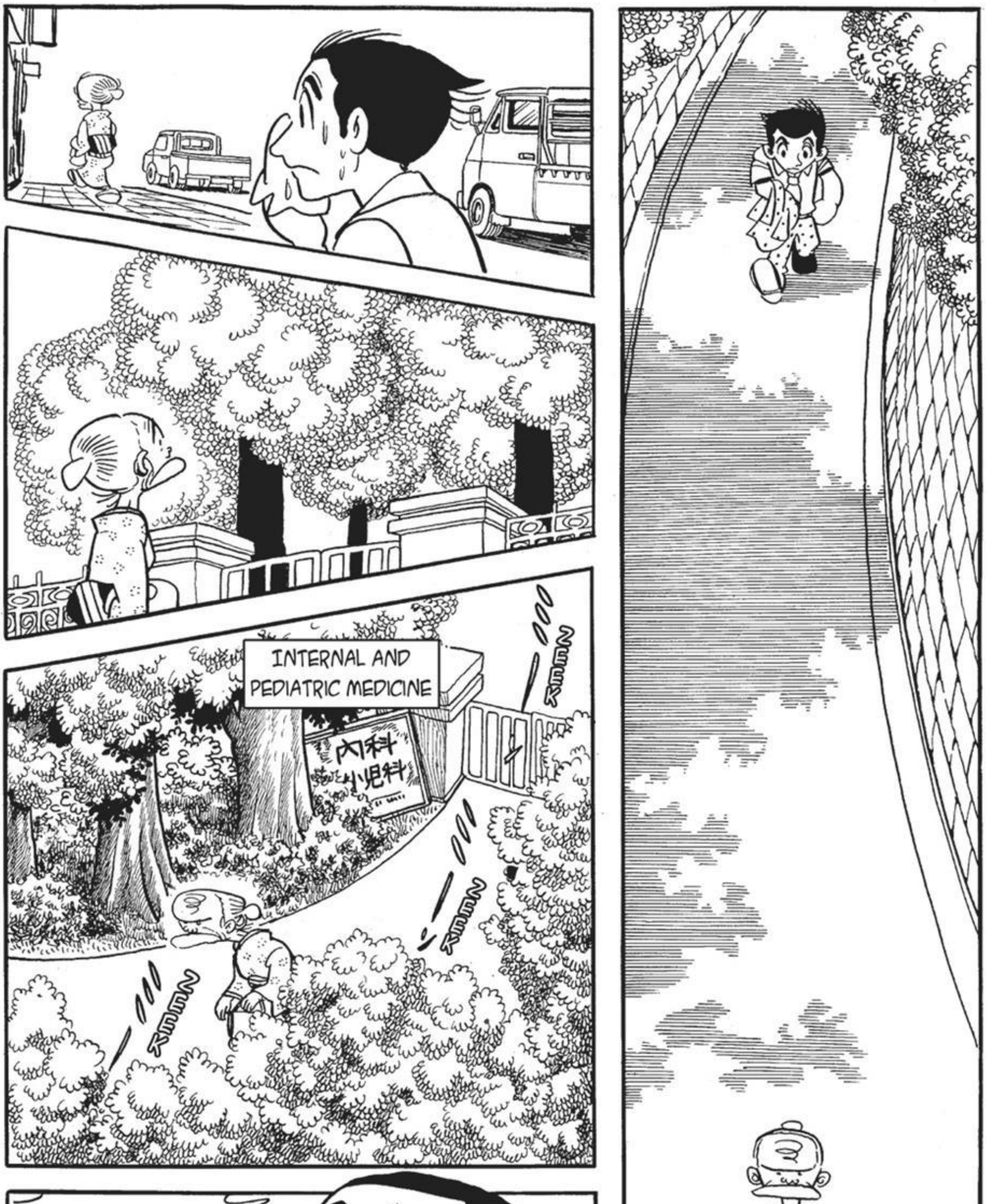


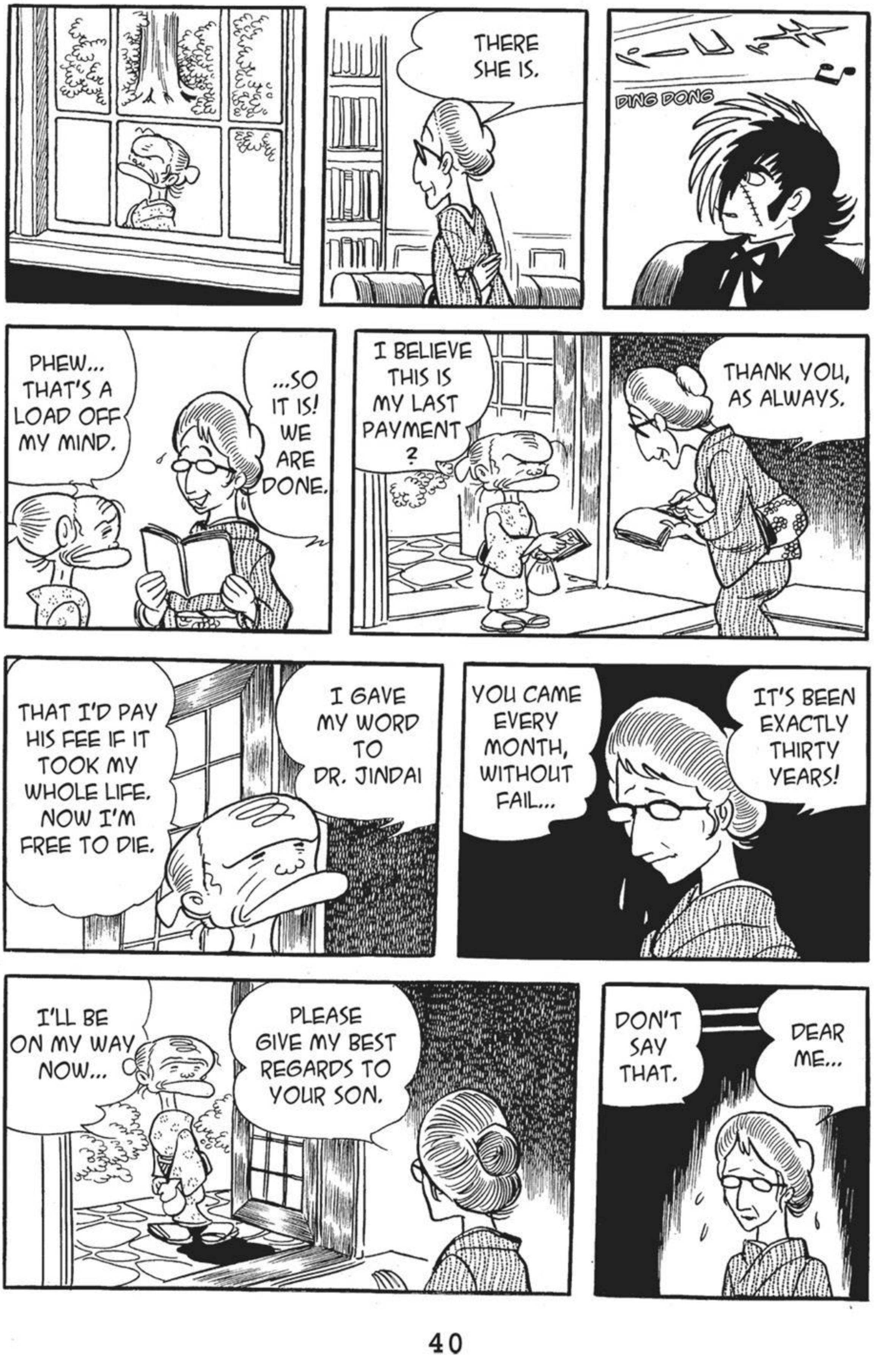

RIGHT NOW.
MY HUSBAND PASSED AWAY SOME TIME AGO...
I KNOW...
WOULD YOU CARE TO TELL ME ABOUT HIM, MRS. JINDAI?
MY HUSBAND WAS SUCH AN ODDBALL THAT EVEN HIS COLLEAGUES KEPT THEIR DISTANCE FROM HIM.
HE HAD A SOLO PRACTICE RIGHT HERE IN OUR HOME. YOU SEE, HE WAS... OUTLANDISH WHEN IT CAME TO MATTERS OF MONEY.
WHEN HE SUCCEEDED IN CURING A PATIENT, HE CHARGED 5, EVEN 10 MILLION YEN, WHICH WOULD BE MORE TODAY.

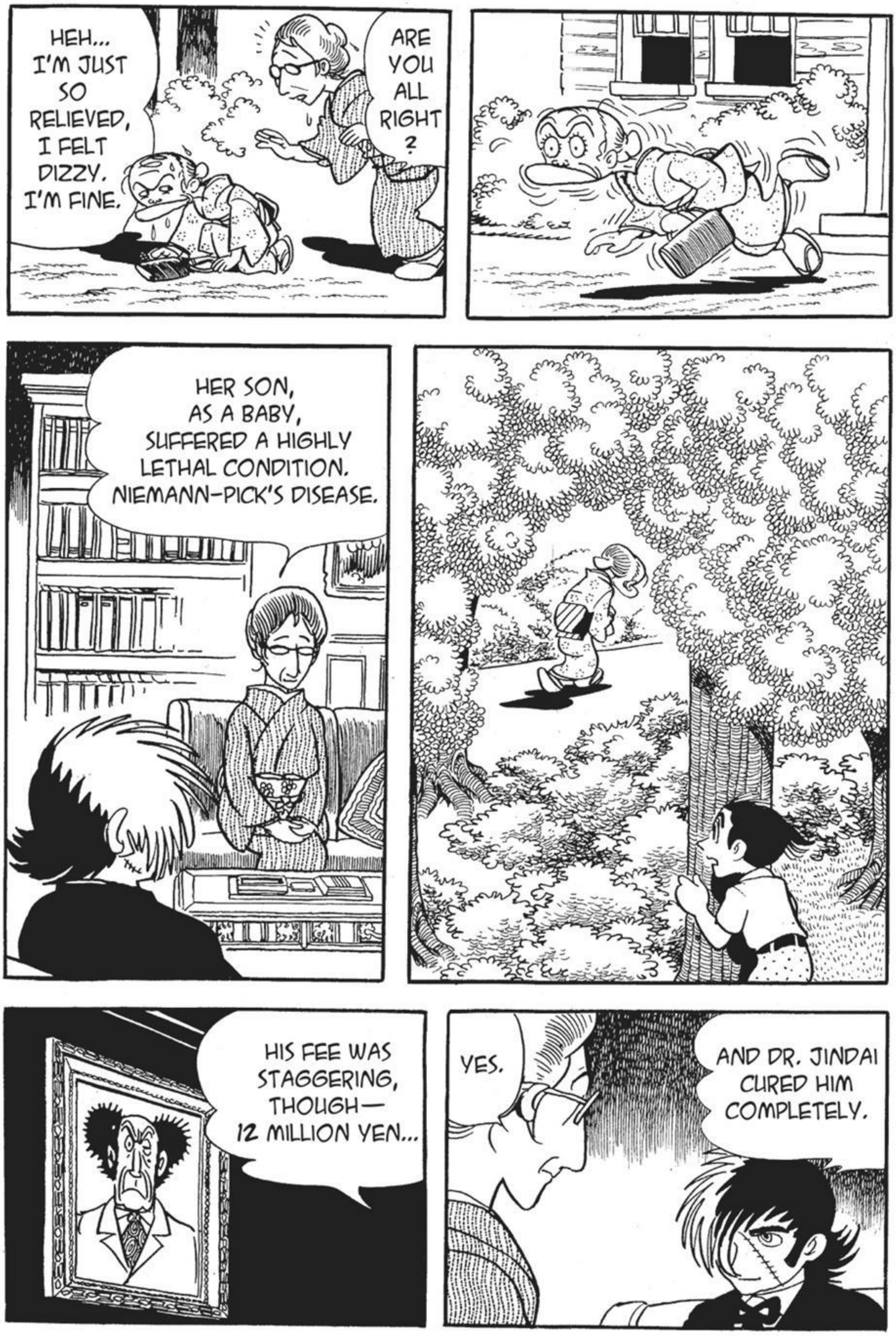

THAT IS STRANGE.
WELL ...
WHAT IS IT?
HA HA ...
IT SOUNDS LIKE I HAD A PEER IN DR. JINDAI!
I THOUGHT I WAS THE GREEDIEST MAN EVER.
TOWARDS THE END OF HIS LIFE, PATIENTS STOPPED COMING. EXCEPT FOR ONE, THAT IS...
HE MUST HAVE BEEN ...
VERY, VERY SKILLED.

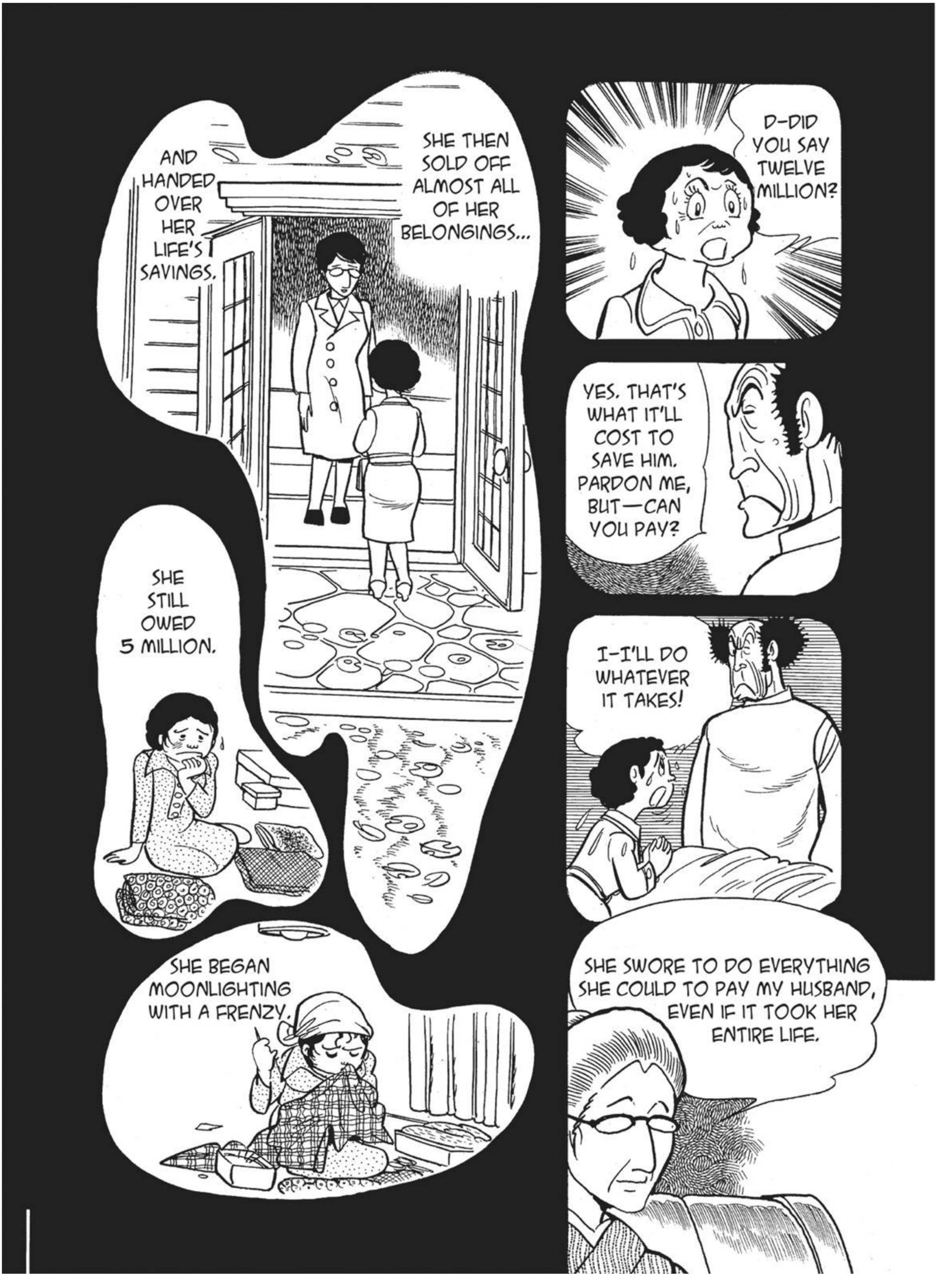

RITSUKO, GIVE ME THIS MONTH'S SPENDING MONEY.
MOTHER! I JUST GAVE IT TO YOU YESTERDAY!
THAT WAS FOR HOUSE SITTING,
SO I ACCEPTED A MEASLY 1,000 YEN.
NOW, COUGH IT UP!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO COLD TO ME?
MOST FOLKS MY AGE ARE A LOT MORE TROUBLE, YOU KNOW! I STILL GET WORK DONE AROUND HERE.
I DO AS MUCH AS A HOUSEKEEPER.
THAT'S ENOUGH!
WHAT ?!

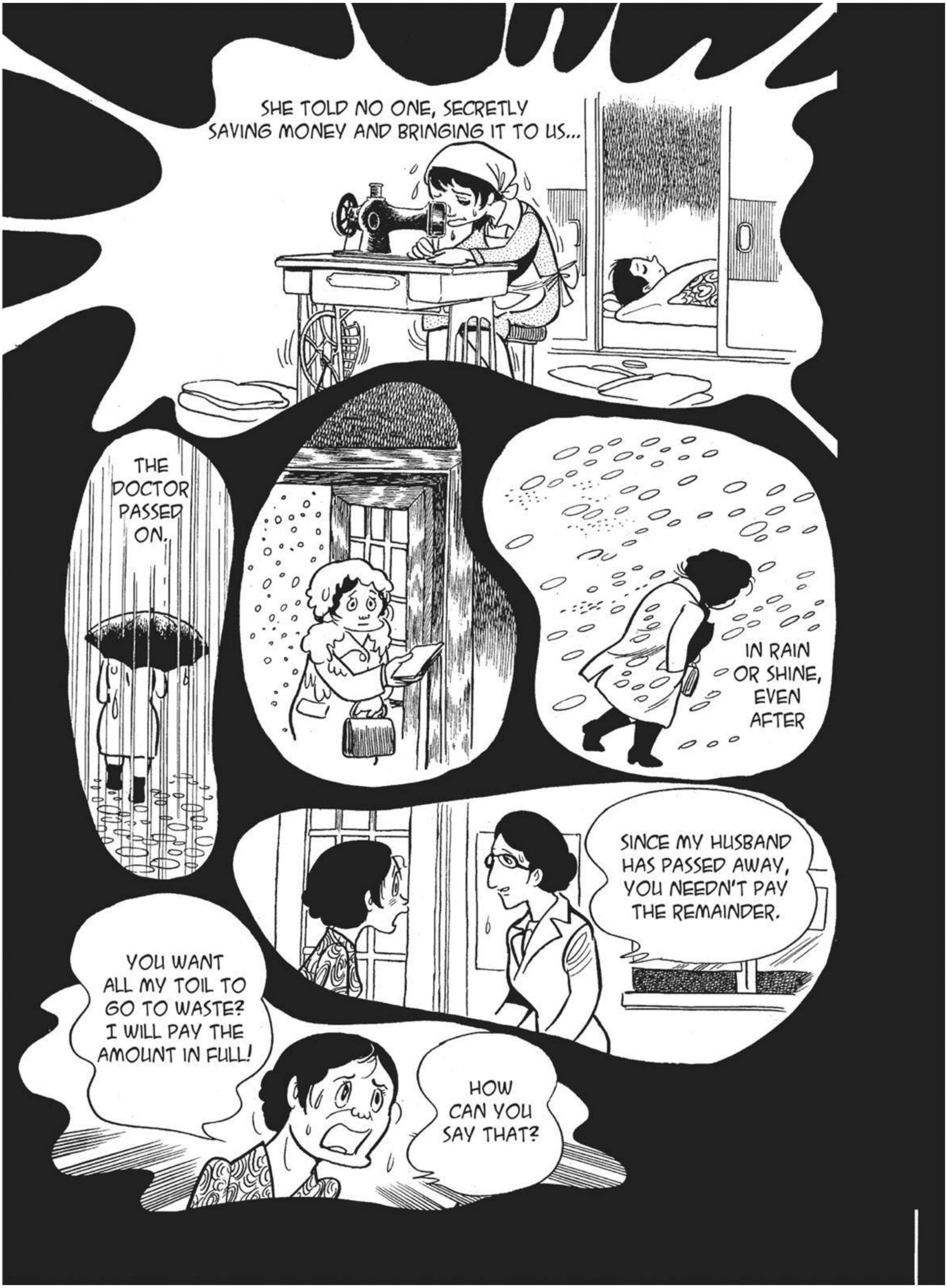

SQUEAL
HOWL
WAAH
SHRIEK
BOO HOO HOO
WHAT NOW?
AT IT AGAIN! DO YOU HAVE TO DO THIS?
MA! I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR SPENDING MONEY, SO PLEASE QUIT PICKING ON RITSUKO.
WHEN DID I PICK ON HER?
DON'T GIVE HER SO MUCH!
TOO LATE! IT'S MINE NOW.
SHE WENT OUT...
I'M GOING TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

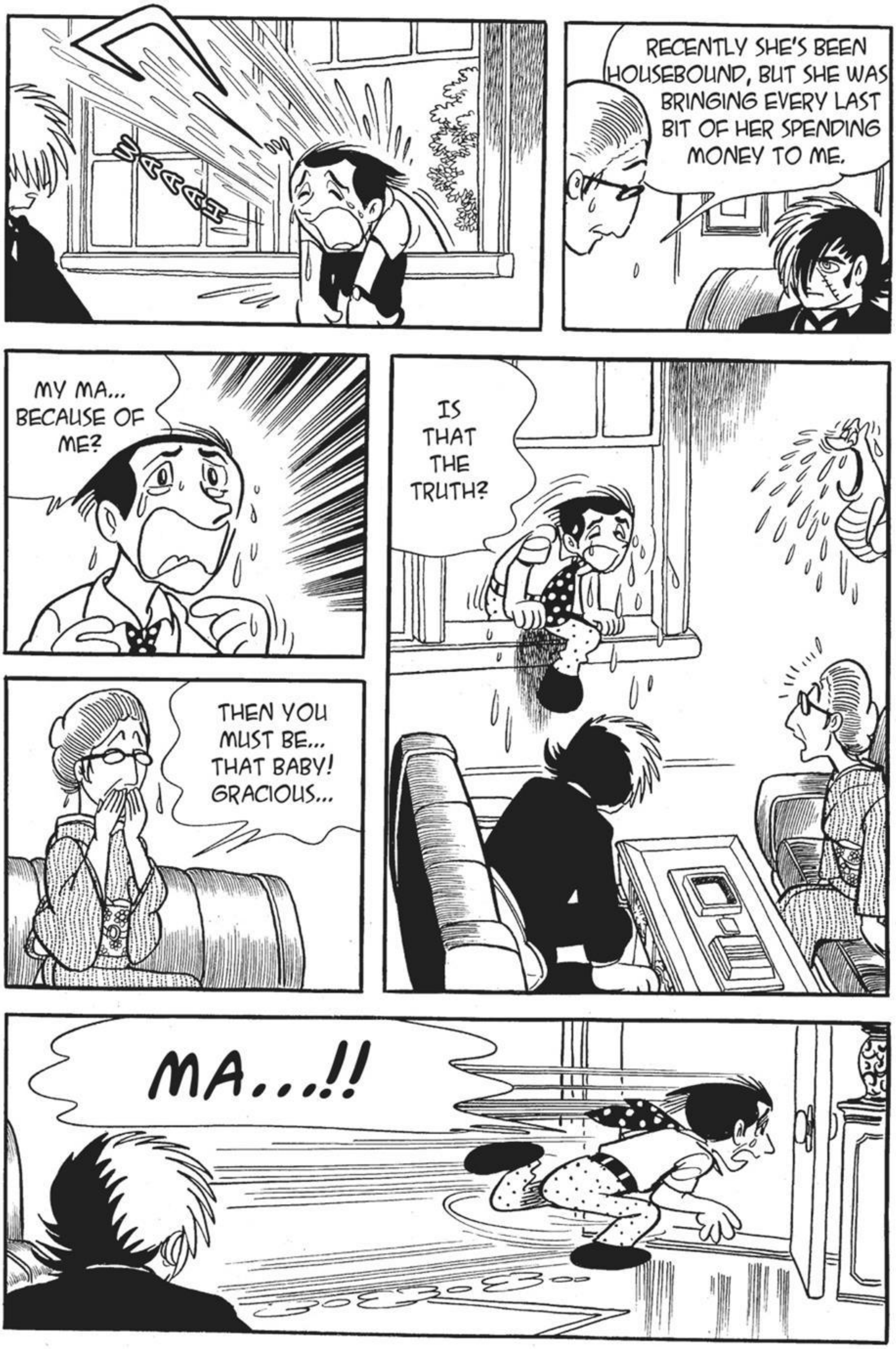

INTERNAL AND PEDIATRIC MEDICINE
内科
小児科
SKEEN
SKEEN
SKEEN
WHY, THIS IS...

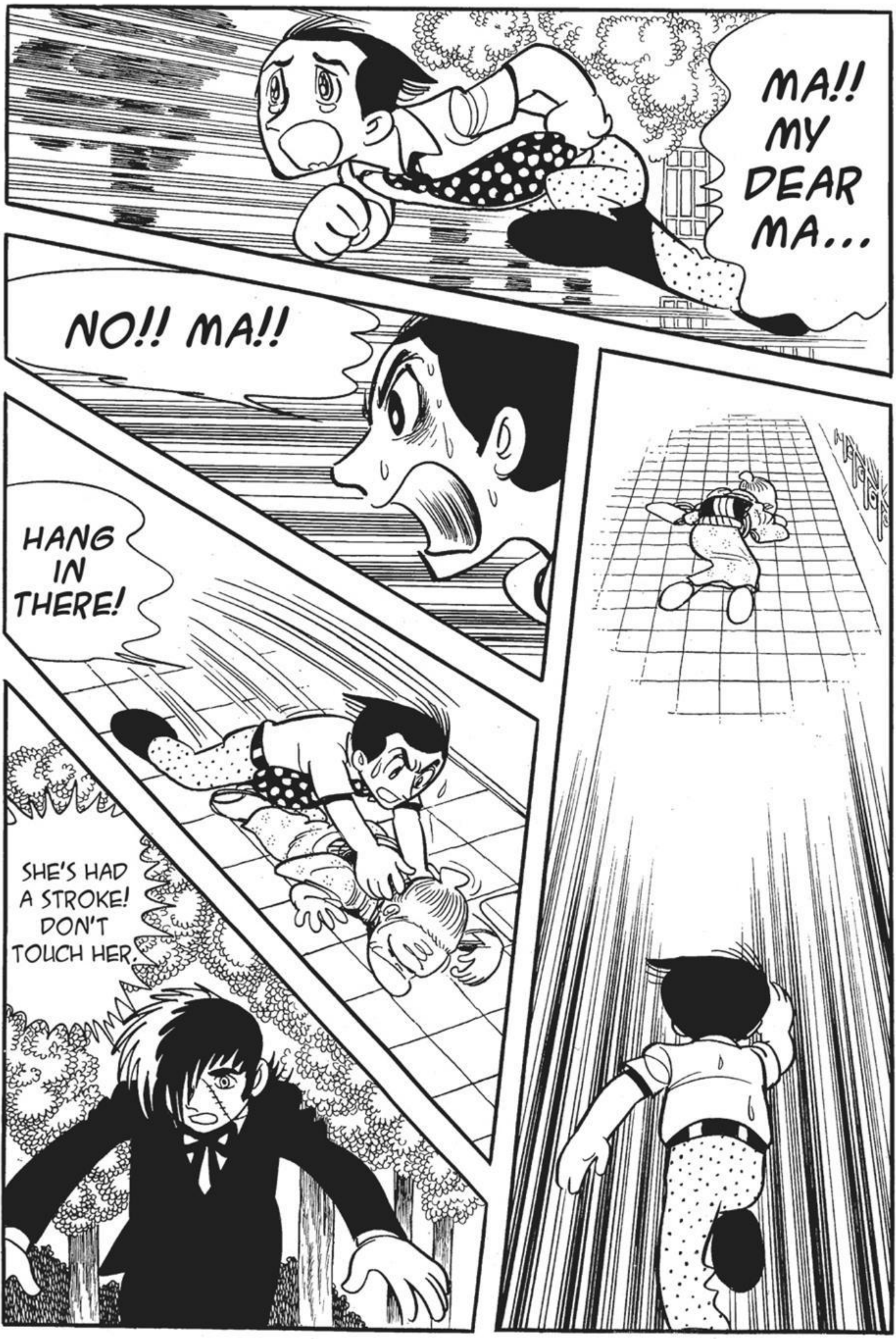

DING DONG
THERE SHE IS.
I BELIEVE THIS IS MY LAST PAYMENT?
THANK YOU, AS ALWAYS.
...SO IT IS! WE ARE DONE.
PHEW... THAT'S A LOAD OFF MY MIND.
IT'S BEEN EXACTLY THIRTY YEARS!
YOU CAME EVERY MONTH, WITHOUT FAIL...
I GAVE MY WORD TO DR. JINDAI
THAT I'D PAY HIS FEE IF IT TOOK MY WHOLE LIFE. NOW I'M FREE TO DIE.
DEAR ME...
DON'T SAY THAT.
PLEASE GIVE MY BEST REGARDS TO YOUR SON.
I'LL BE ON MY WAY NOW...

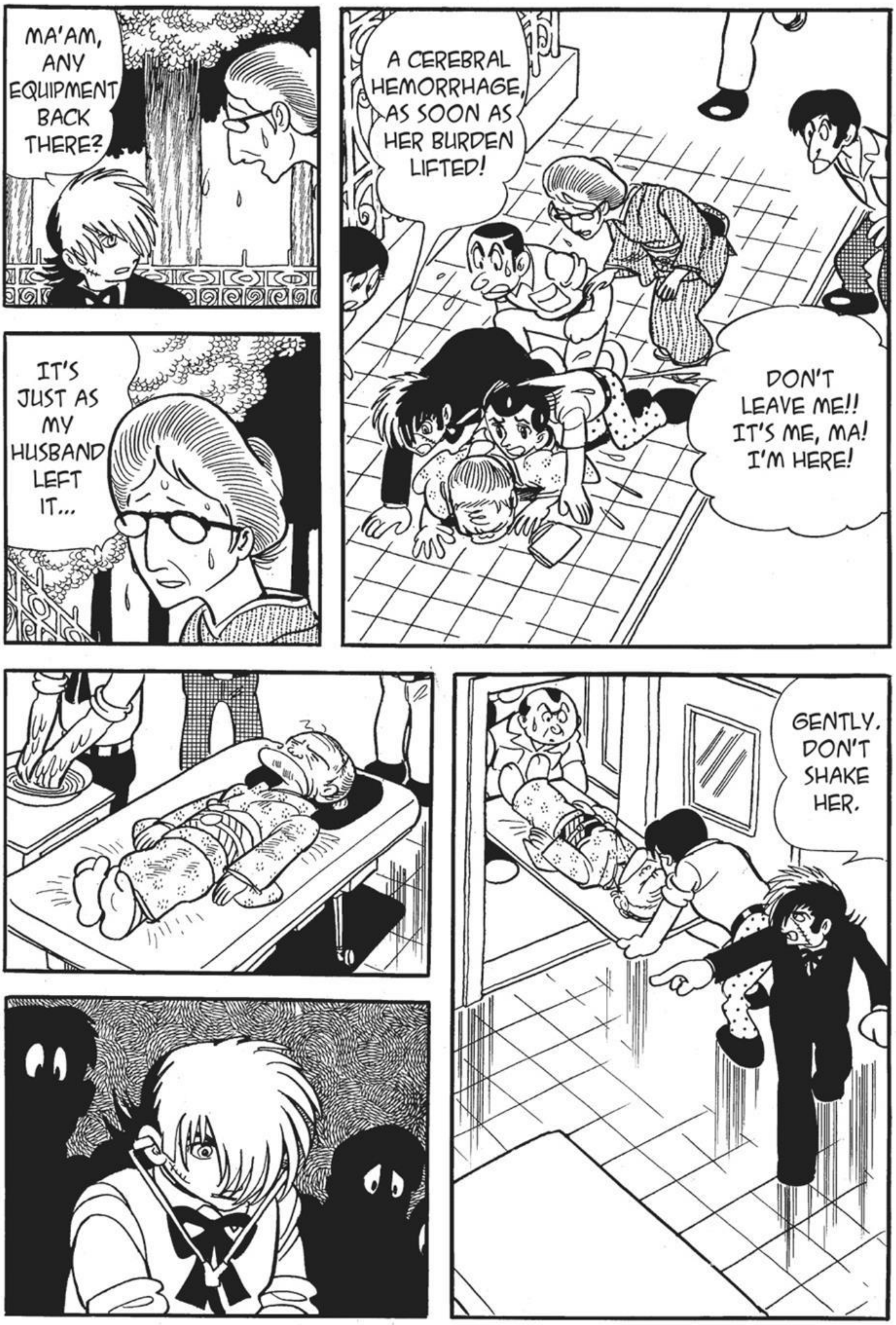

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HEH... I'M JUST SO RELIEVED, I FELT DIZZY. I'M FINE.
HER SON, AS A BABY, SUFFERED A HIGHLY LETHAL CONDITION. NIEMANN-PICK'S DISEASE.
AND DR. JINDAI CURED HIM COMPLETELY.
YES.
HIS FEE WAS STAGGERING, THOUGH— 12 MILLION YEN...

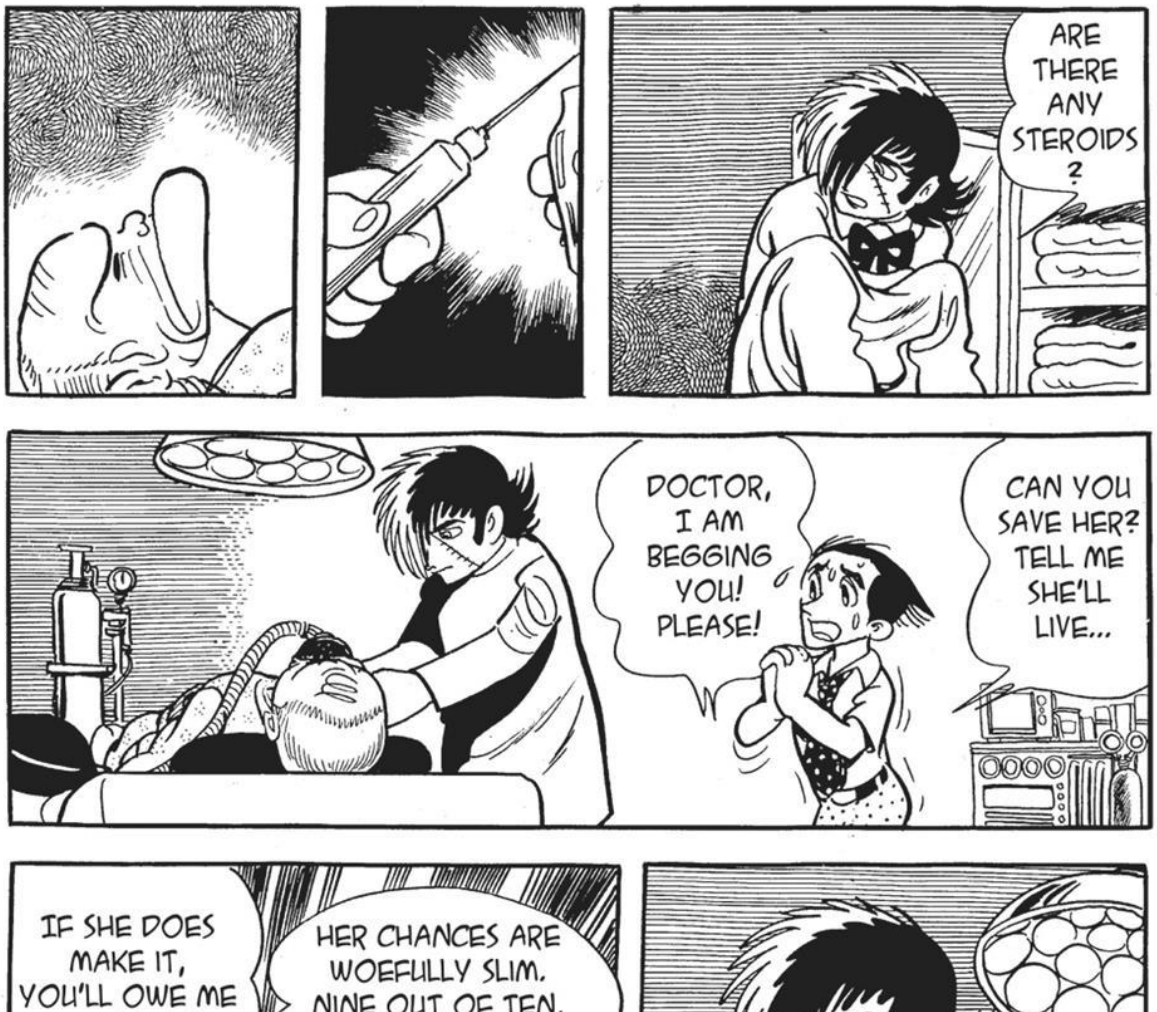

D-DID YOU SAY TWELVE MILLION?
YES. THAT'S WHAT IT'LL COST TO SAVE HIM. PARDON ME, BUT—CAN YOU PAY?
I-I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES!
SHE THEN SOLD OFF ALMOST ALL OF HER BELONGINGS...
AND HANDED OVER HER LIFE'S SAVINGS.
SHE STILL OWED 5 MILLION.
SHE SWORE TO DO EVERYTHING SHE COULD TO PAY MY HUSBAND, EVEN IF IT TOOK HER ENTIRE LIFE.
SHE BEGAN MOONLIGHTING WITH A FRENZY.

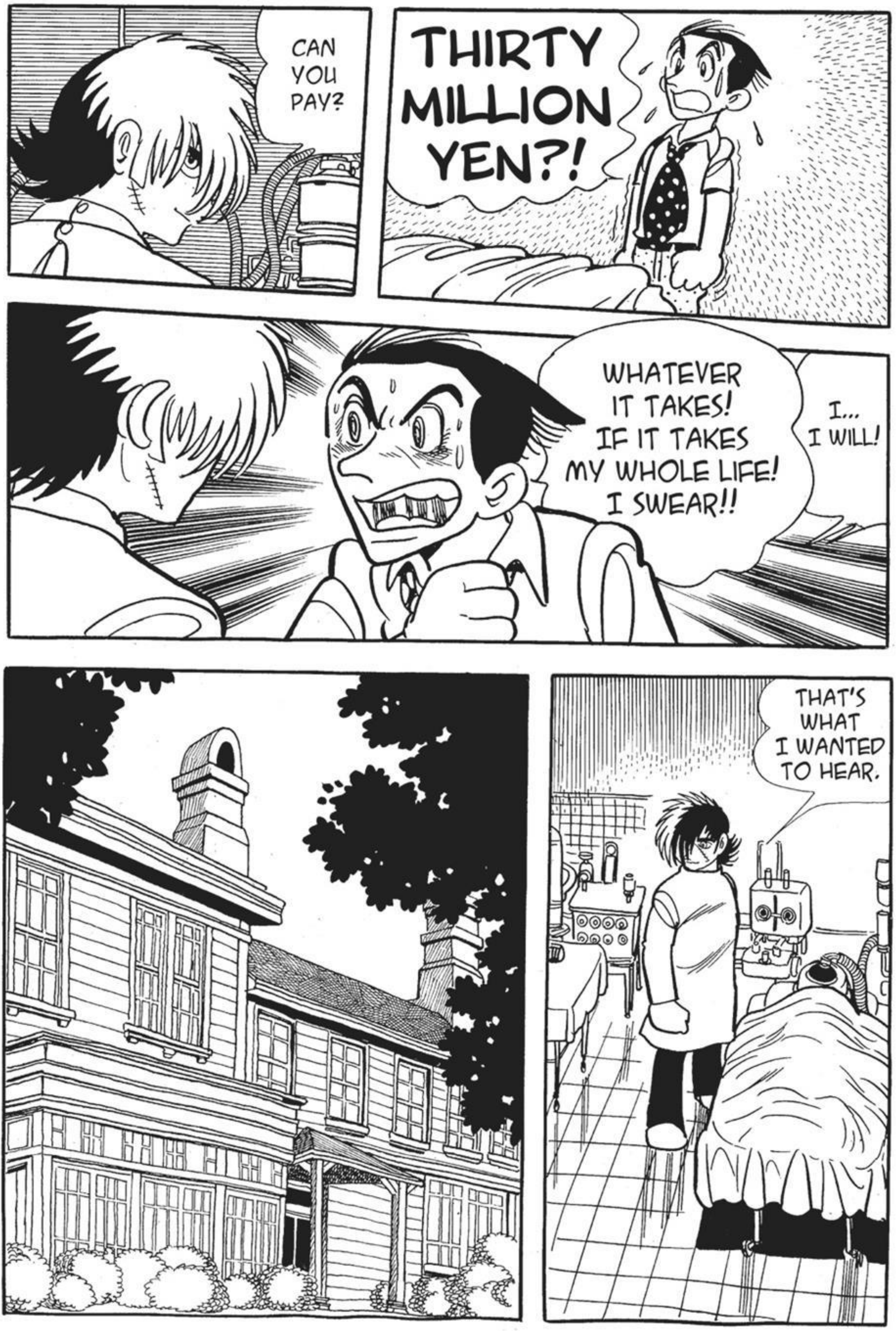

SHE TOLD NO ONE, SECRETLY SAVING MONEY AND BRINGING IT TO US...
THE DOCTOR PASSED ON.
IN RAIN OR SHINE, EVEN AFTER
SINCE MY HUSBAND HAS PASSED AWAY, YOU NEEDN'T PAY THE REMAINDER.
YOU WANT ALL MY TOIL TO GO TO WASTE? I WILL PAY THE AMOUNT IN FULL!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?


RECENTLY SHE'S BEEN HOUSEBOUND, BUT SHE WAS BRINGING EVERY LAST BIT OF HER SPENDING MONEY TO ME.
MY MA... BECAUSE OF ME?
IS THAT THE TRUTH?
THEN YOU MUST BE... THAT BABY! GRACIOUS...
MA...!!

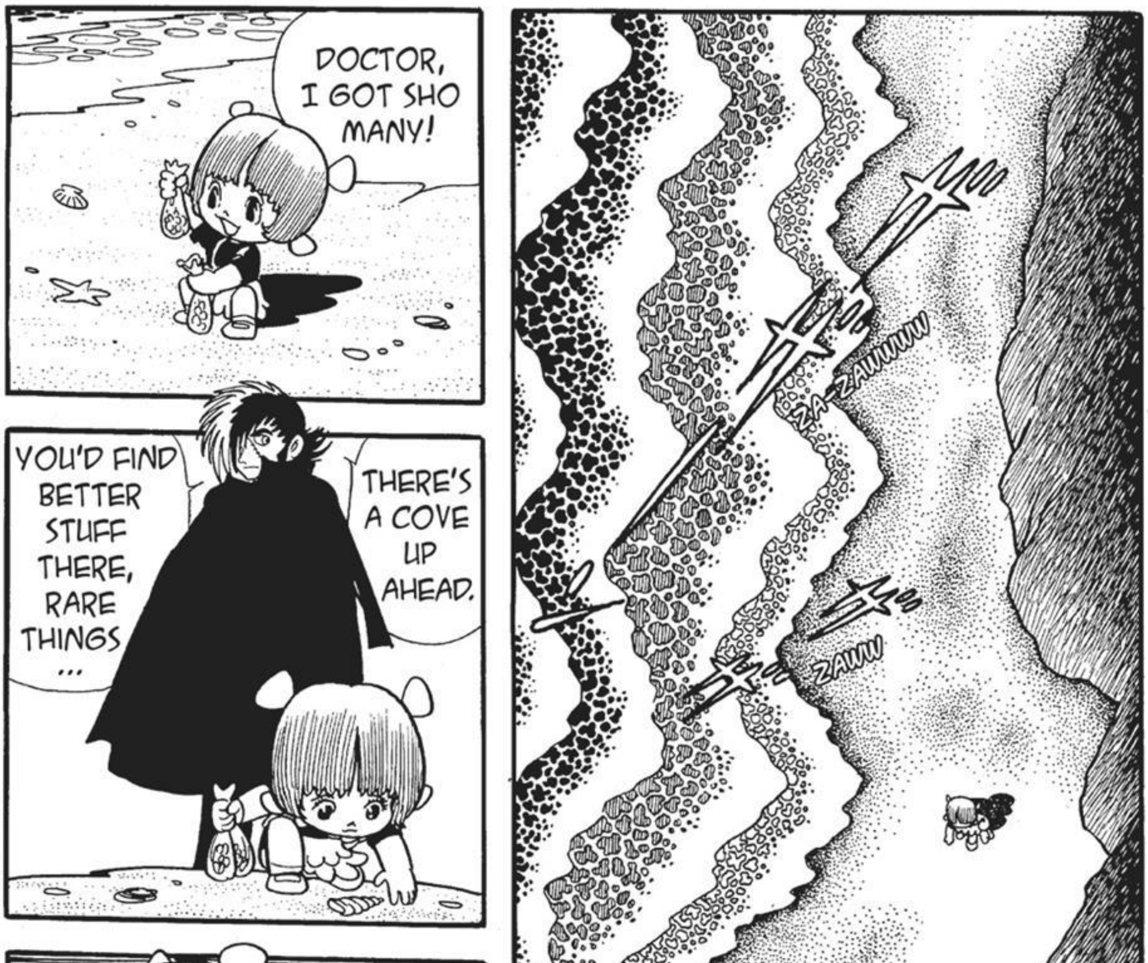

MA!! MY DEAR MA...
NO!! MA!!
HANG IN THERE!
SHE'S HAD A STROKE! DON'T TOUCH HER.

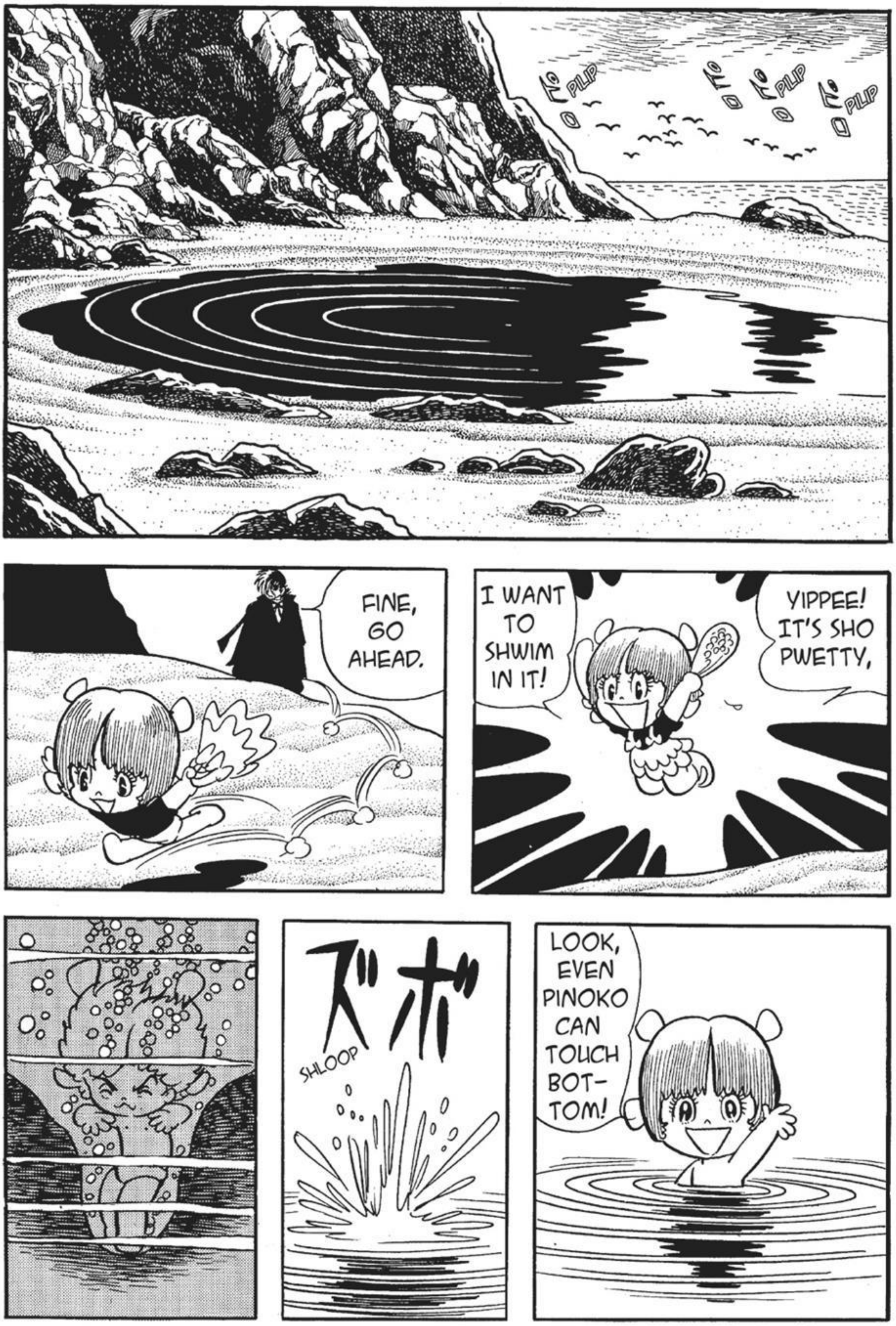

MA'AM, ANY EQUIPMENT BACK THERE?
IT'S JUST AS MY HUSBAND LEFT IT...
A CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE, AS SOON AS HER BURDEN LIFTED!
DON'T LEAVE ME!! IT'S ME, MA! I'M HERE!
GENTLY. DON'T SHAKE HER.

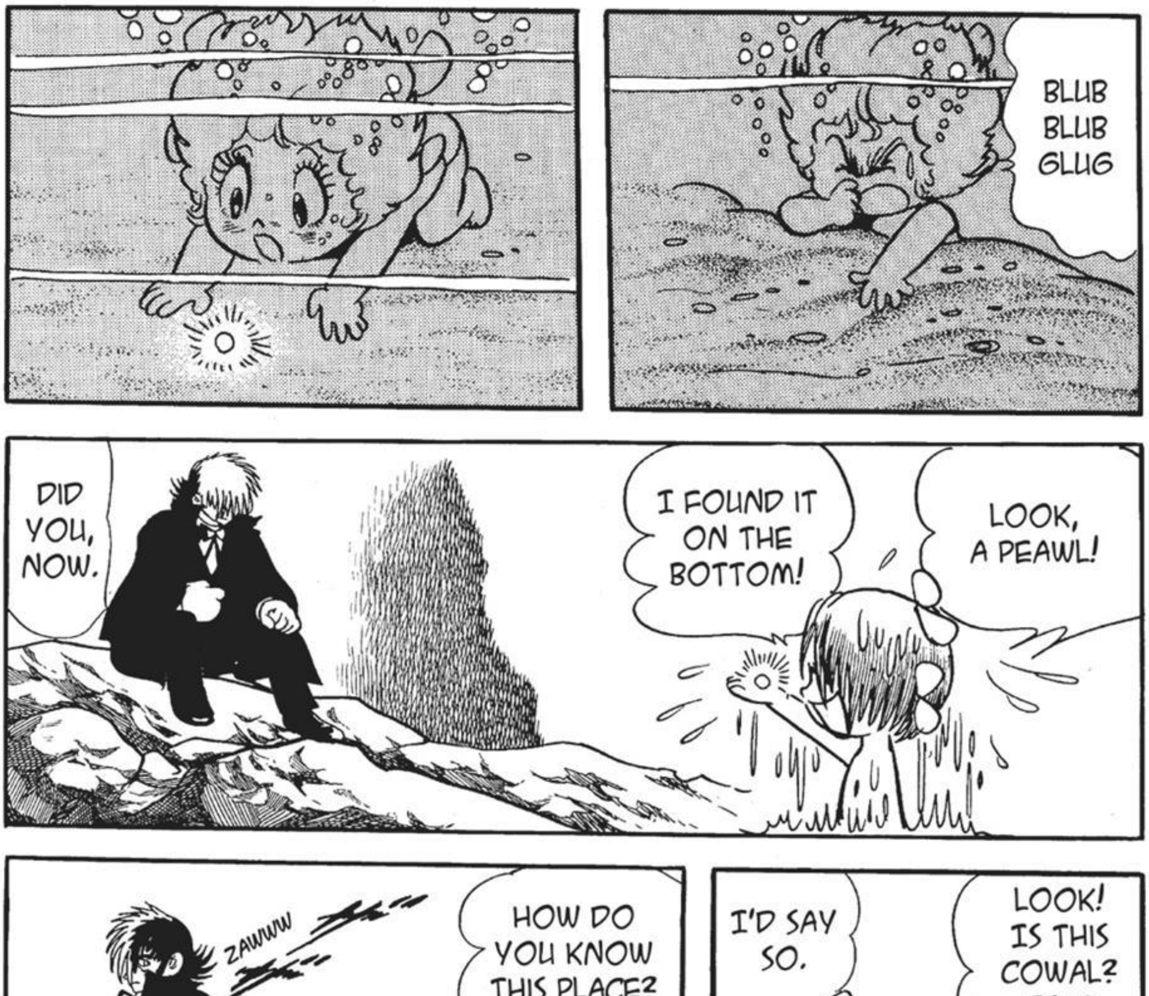

ARE THERE ANY STEROIDS?
CAN YOU SAVE HER? TELL ME SHE'LL LIVE...
DOCTOR, I AM BEGGING YOU! PLEASE!
YOU'RE ASKING ME TO ASSUME HER CARE?
I'LL BE PAYING YOU, OF COURSE!
HER CHANCES ARE WOEFULLY SLIM. NINE OUT OF TEN, SHE'S NOT COMING BACK TO US.
IF SHE DOES MAKE IT, YOU'LL OWE ME 30 MILLION...

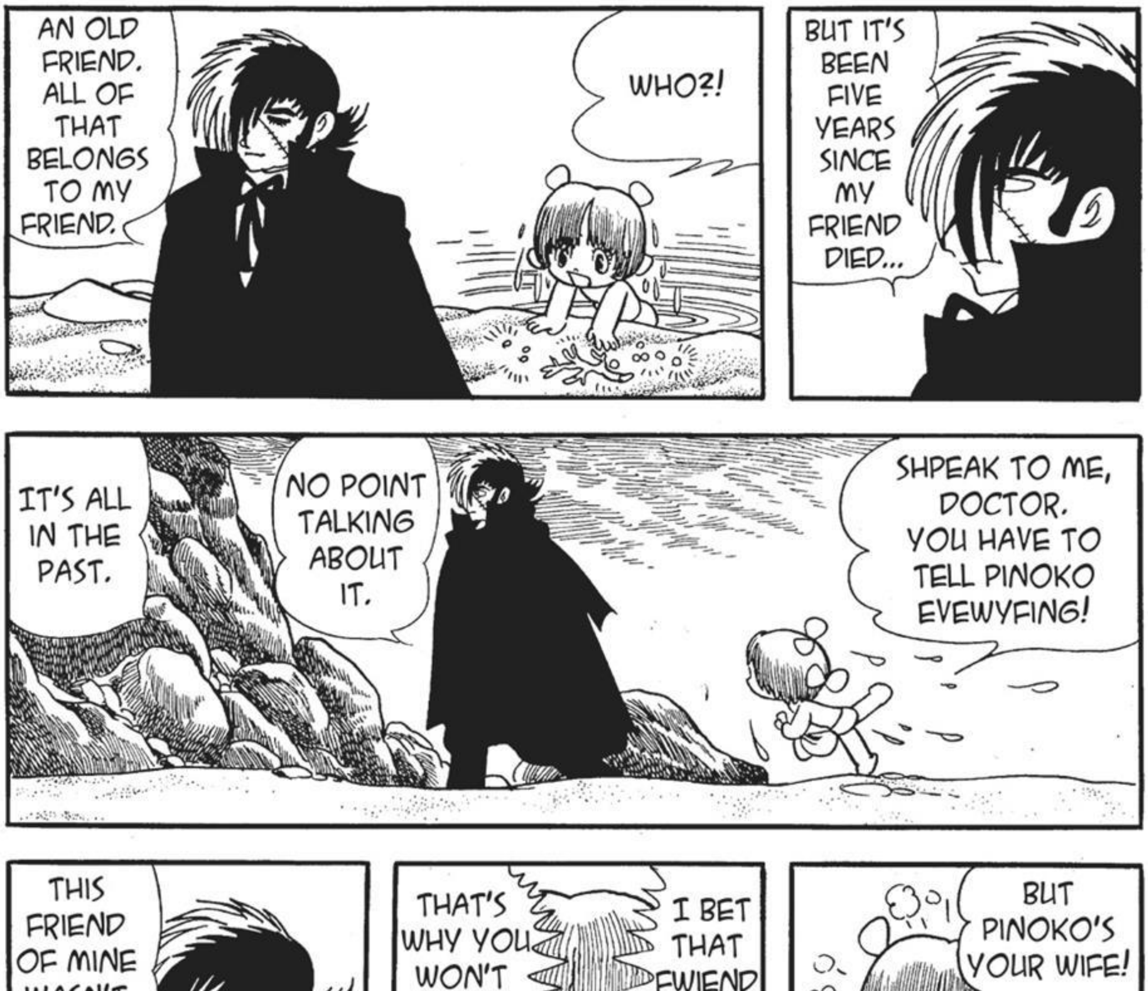

CAN YOU PAY?
THIRTY MILLION YEN?!
WHATEVER IT TAKES! IF IT TAKES MY WHOLE LIFE! I SWEAR!!
I... I WILL!
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR.

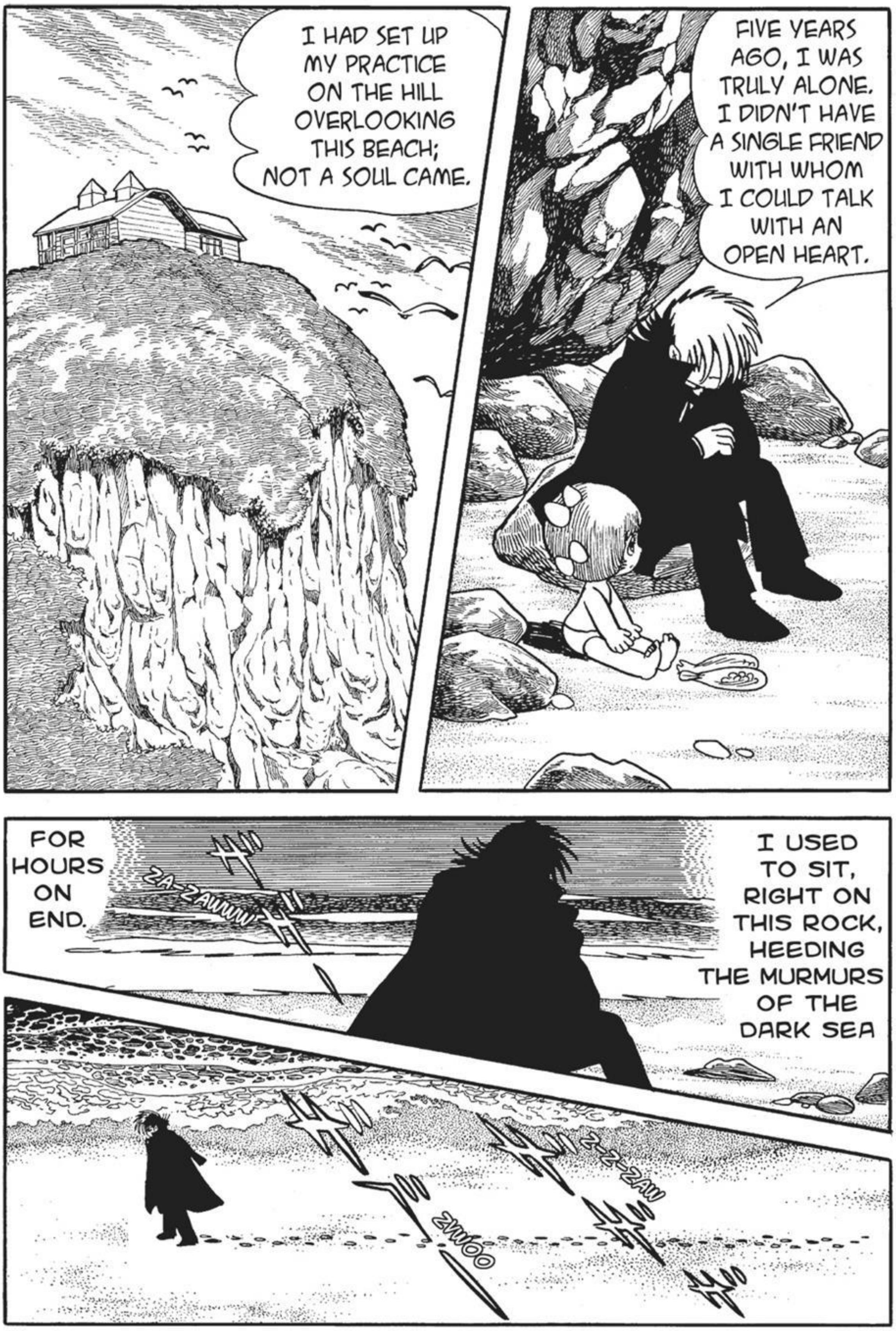
THE BALLAD OF THE KILLER WHALE

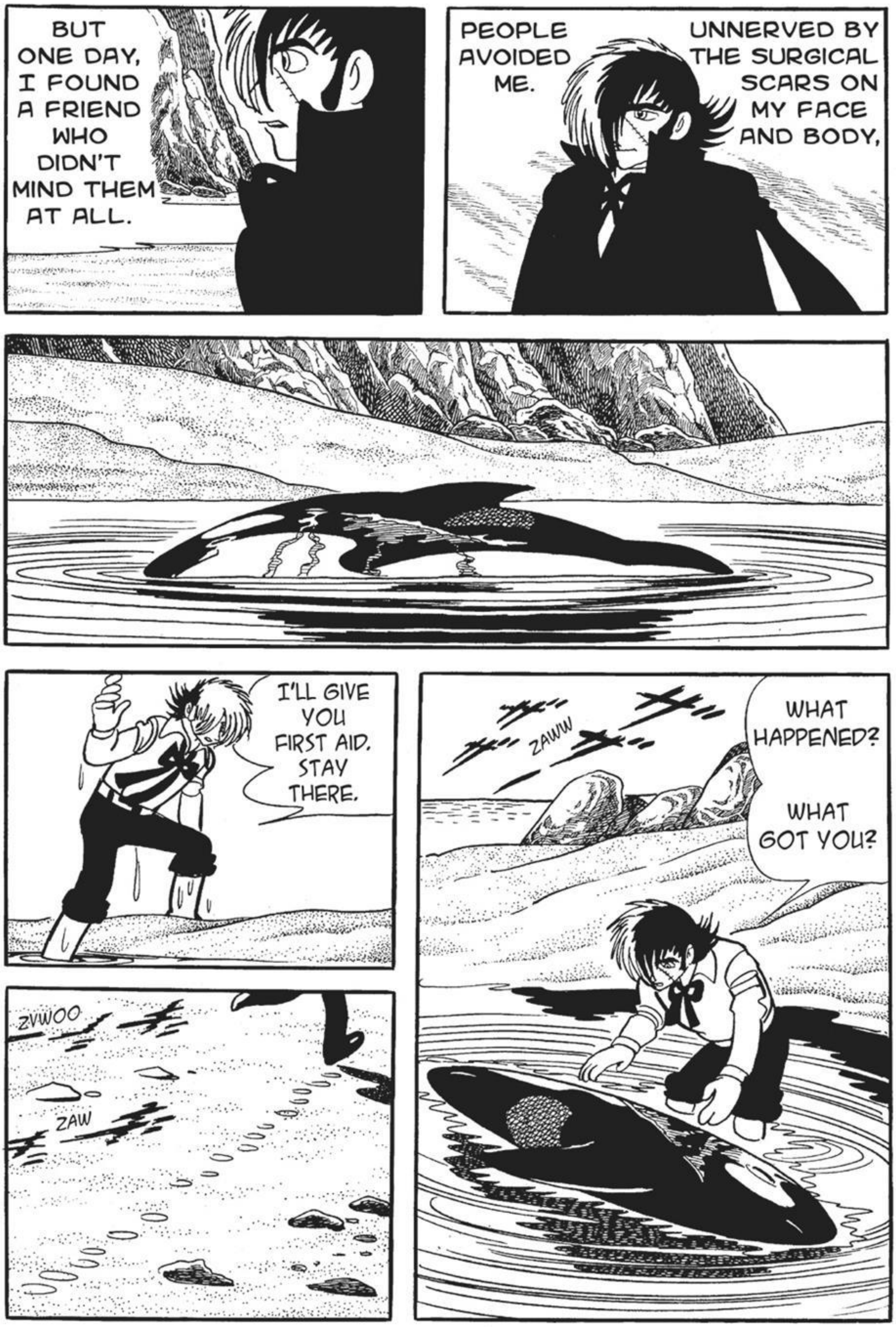

DOCTOR, I GOT SHO MANY!
THERE'S A COVE UP AHEAD.
YOU'D FIND BETTER STUFF THERE, RARE THINGS ...
WHE~RE ?
ZA-ZAW
ZAW
ZA-ZAWWWW
ZAWW
ZA-ZAWW

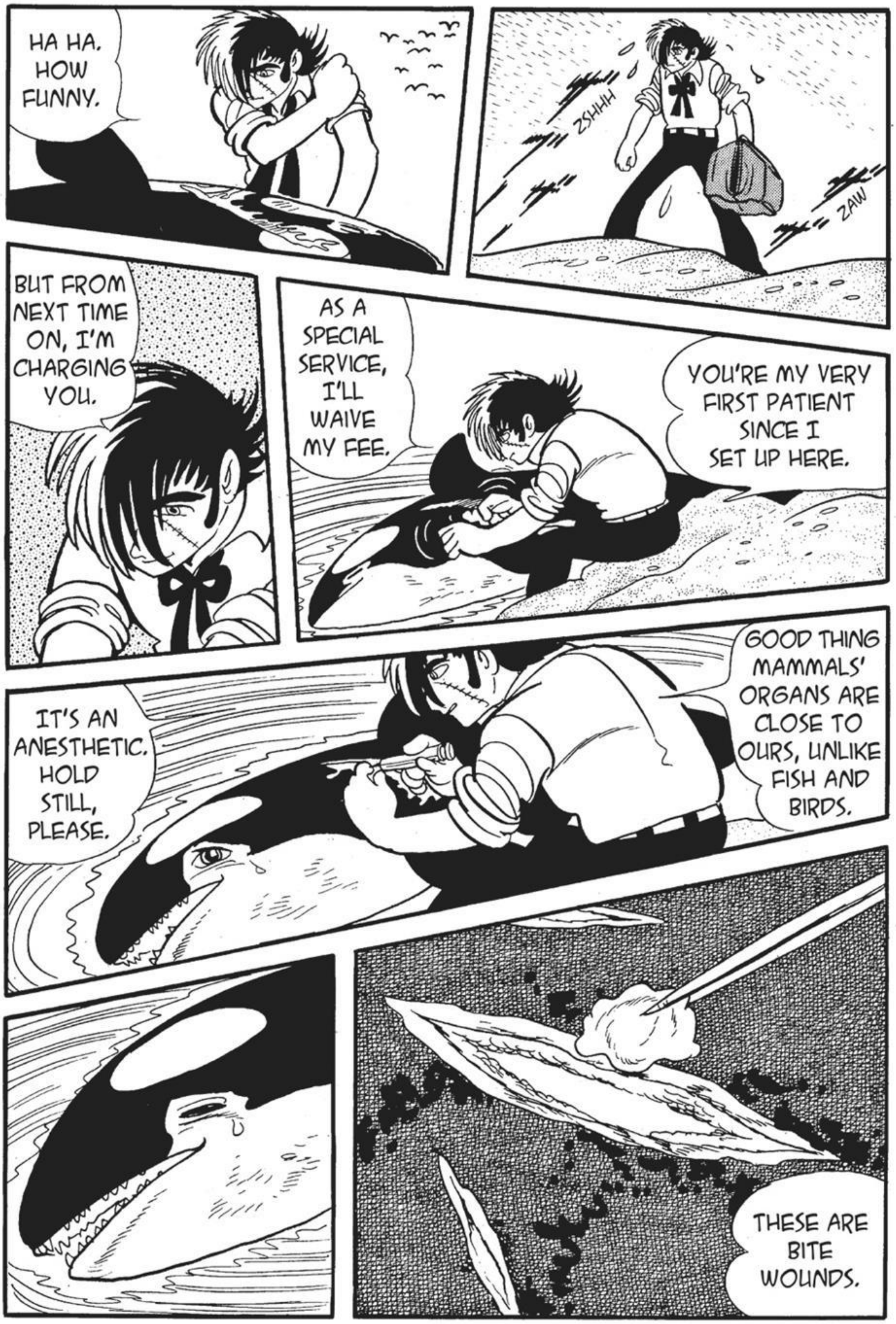

ピロ PILIP
ピロ
ピロ PILIP
ピロ PILIP
FINE, GO AHEAD.
I WANT TO SHWIM IN IT!
YIPPEE! IT'S SHO PWETTY,
ズボ
SHLOOP
LOOK, EVEN PINOKO CAN TOUCH BOTTOM!

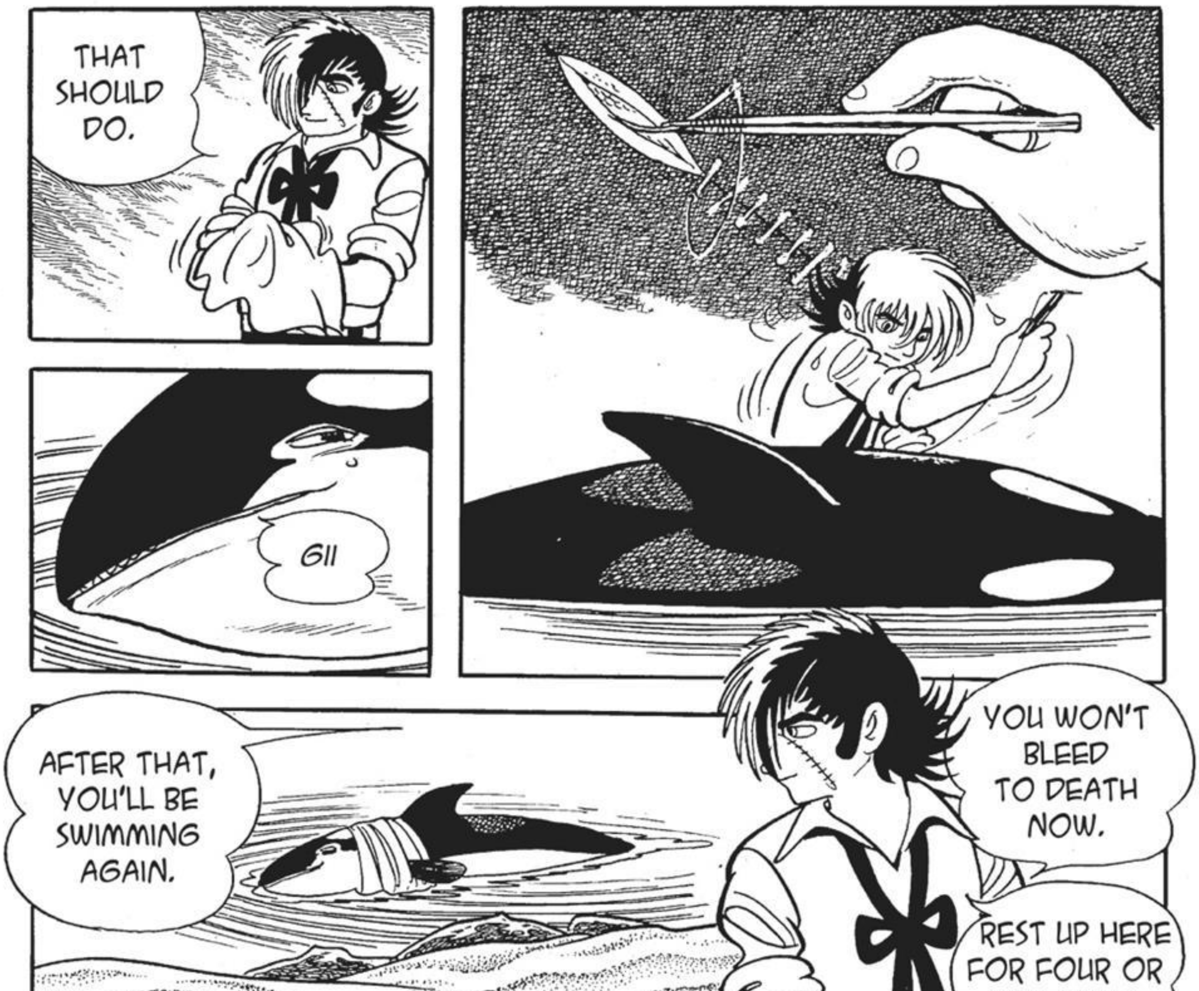

BLUB BLUB GLUG
LOOK, A PEAWL!
I FOUND IT ON THE BOTTOM!
DID YOU, NOW.
LOOK! IS THIS COWAL? IS IT WEAL?
I'D SAY SO.
CAN TAKE?
TAKE ALL YOU LIKE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS PLACE?
ZAWWW
ZA-
ZVVV
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL PINOKO SHOONER, DOCTOR?
I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL ANYONE.

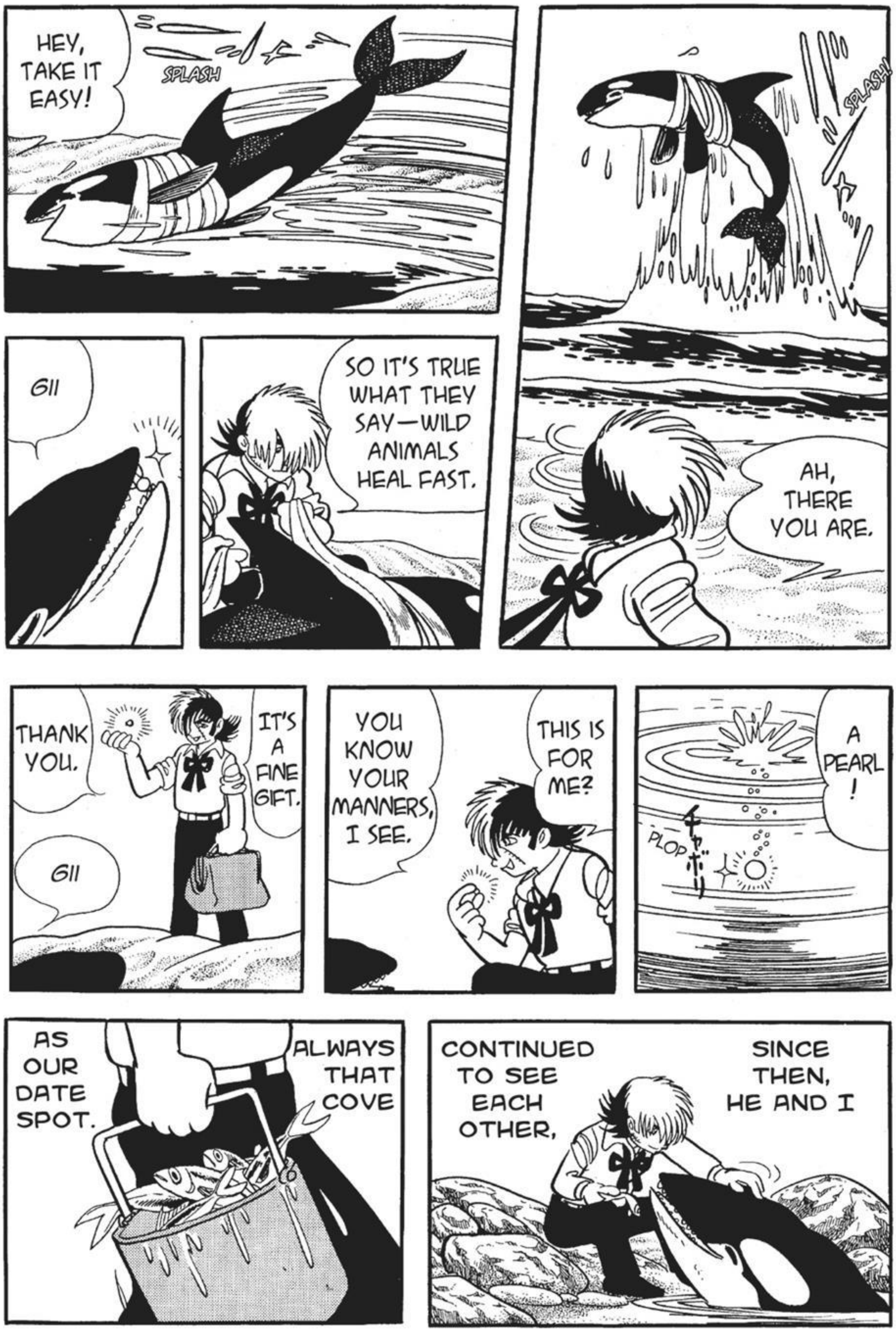

WHO?!
AN OLD FRIEND. ALL OF THAT BELONGS TO MY FRIEND.
BUT IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS SINCE MY FRIEND DIED...
IT'S ALL IN THE PAST.
NO POINT TALKING ABOUT IT.
SHPEAK TO ME, DOCTOR. YOU HAVE TO TELL PINOKO EVEWYFING!
THIS FRIEND OF MINE WASN'T HUMAN.
I BET THAT FWIEND WAS A GIRL!
THAT'S WHY YOU WON'T TELL PINOKO!
WHATTA HIDEOUS FACE!
BUT PINOKO'S YOUR WIFE!
HE CAME FROM THE SEA...
ZWOOSH

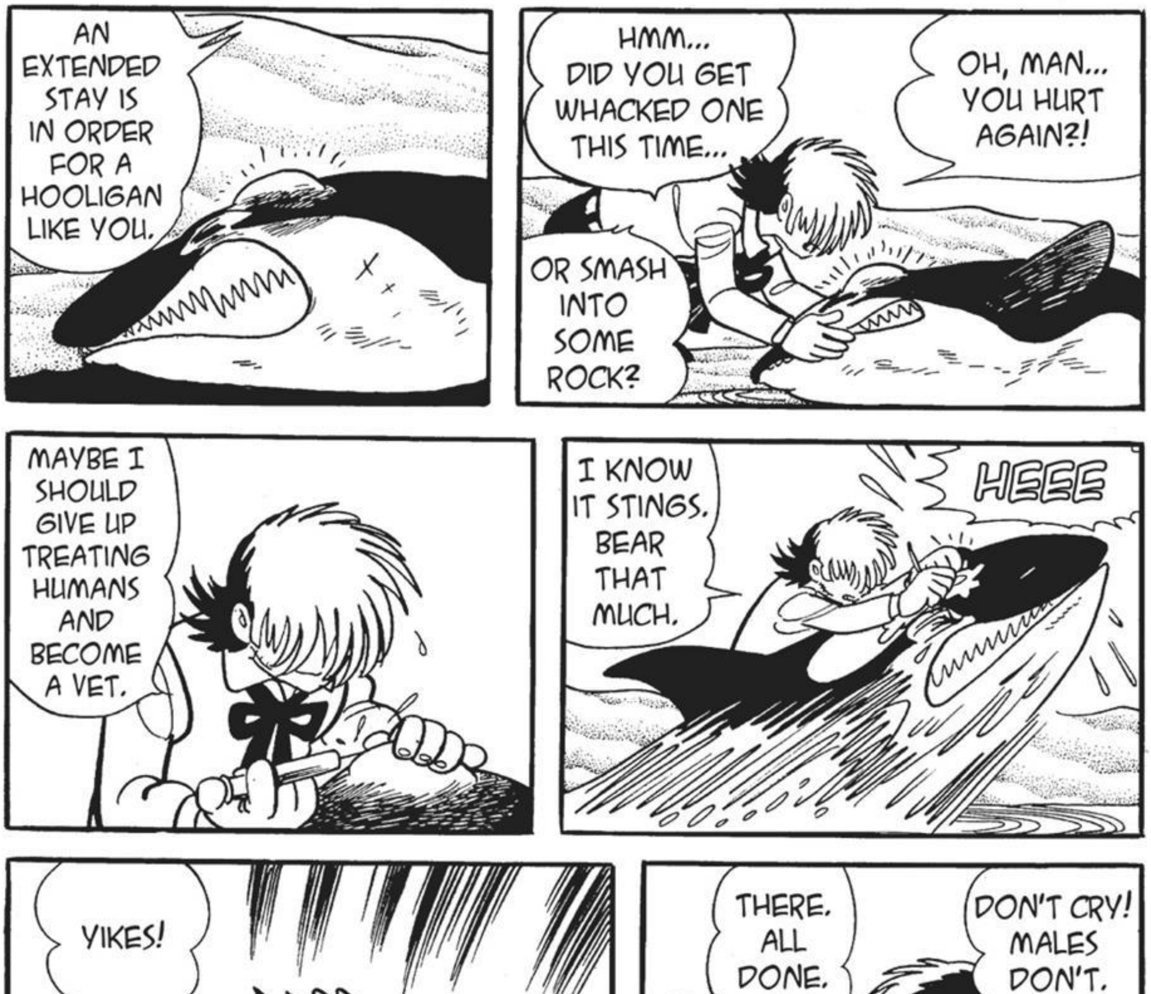

FIVE YEARS AGO, I WAS TRULY ALONE. I DIDN'T HAVE A SINGLE FRIEND WITH WHOM I COULD TALK WITH AN OPEN HEART.
I HAD SET UP MY PRACTICE ON THE HILL OVERLOOKING THIS BEACH; NOT A SOUL CAME.
I USED TO SIT, RIGHT ON THIS ROCK, HEEDING THE MURMURS OF THE DARK SEA
FOR HOURS ON END.
ZA-ZAWWW
Z-Z-ZAW
OOWZ

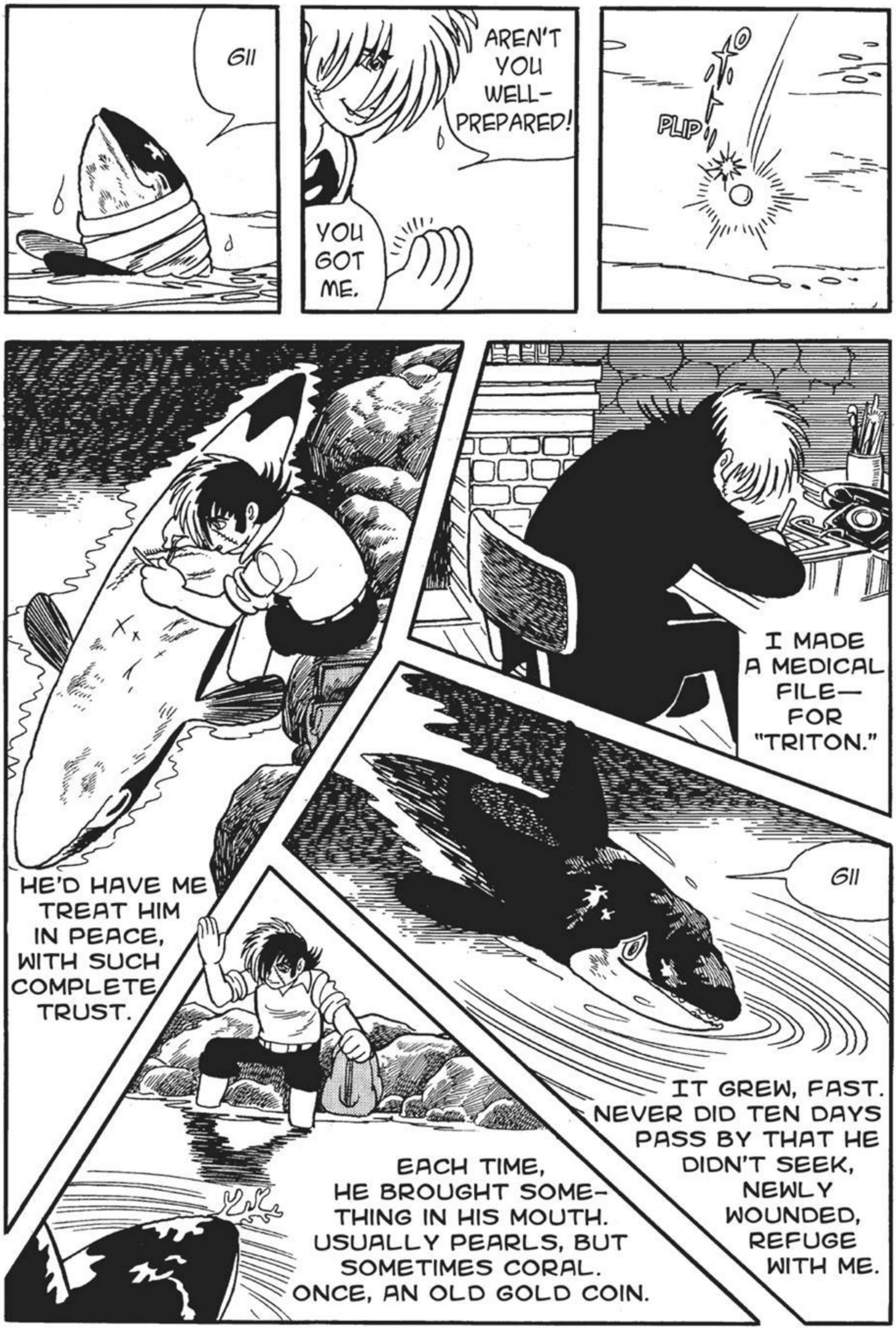

UNNERVED BY THE SURGICAL SCARS ON MY FACE AND BODY,
PEOPLE AVOIDED ME.
BUT ONE DAY, I FOUND A FRIEND WHO DIDN'T MIND THEM AT ALL.
ZAWW
WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT GOT YOU?
I'LL GIVE YOU FIRST AID. STAY THERE.
ZVWOO
ZAW

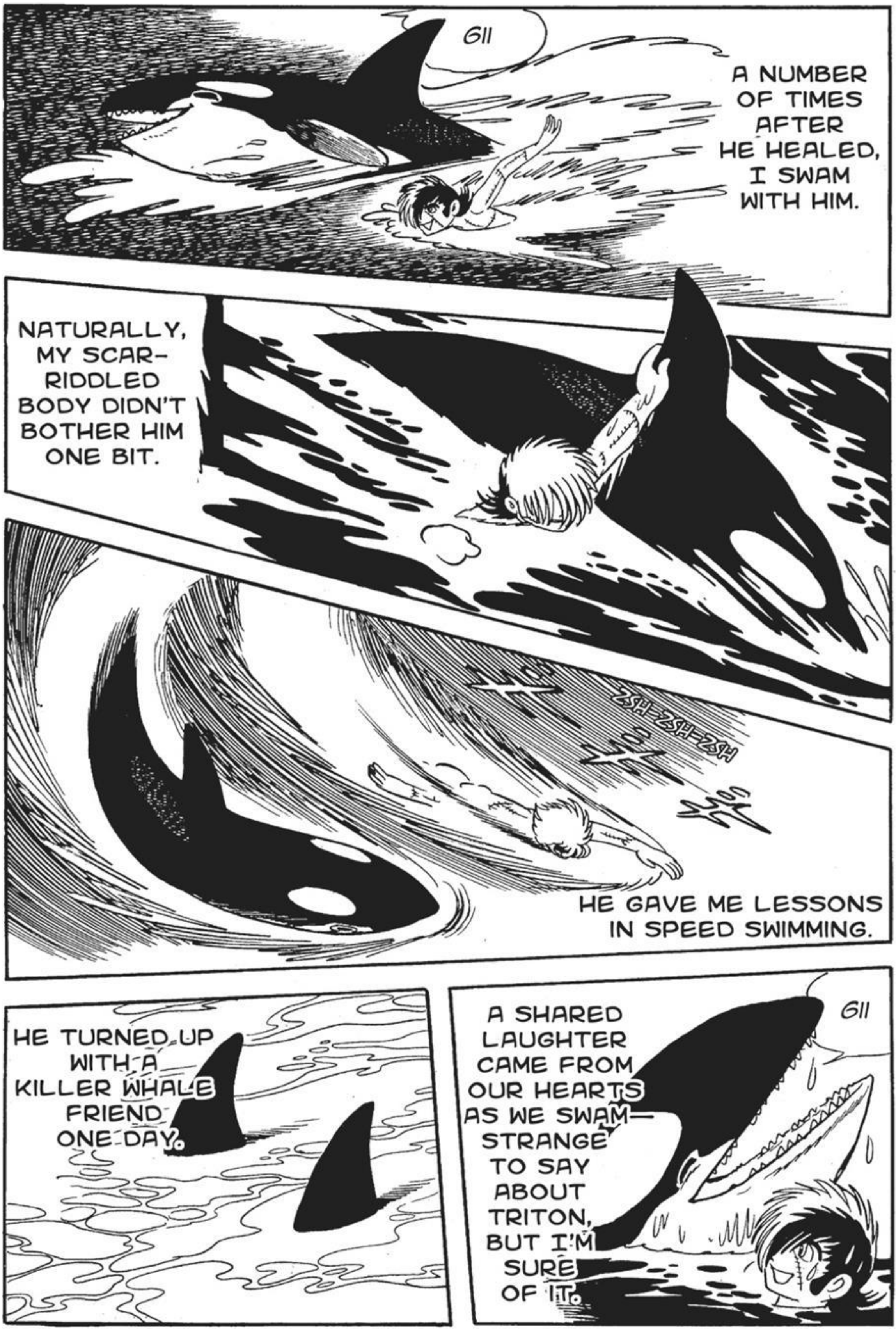

ZSHHH
ZAW
HA HA. HOW FUNNY.
YOU'RE MY VERY FIRST PATIENT SINCE I SET UP HERE.
AS A SPECIAL SERVICE, I'LL WAIVE MY FEE.
BUT FROM NEXT TIME ON, I'M CHARGING YOU.
GOOD THING MAMMALS' ORGANS ARE CLOSE TO OURS, UNLIKE FISH AND BIRDS.
IT'S AN ANESTHETIC. HOLD STILL, PLEASE.
THESE ARE BITE WOUNDS.

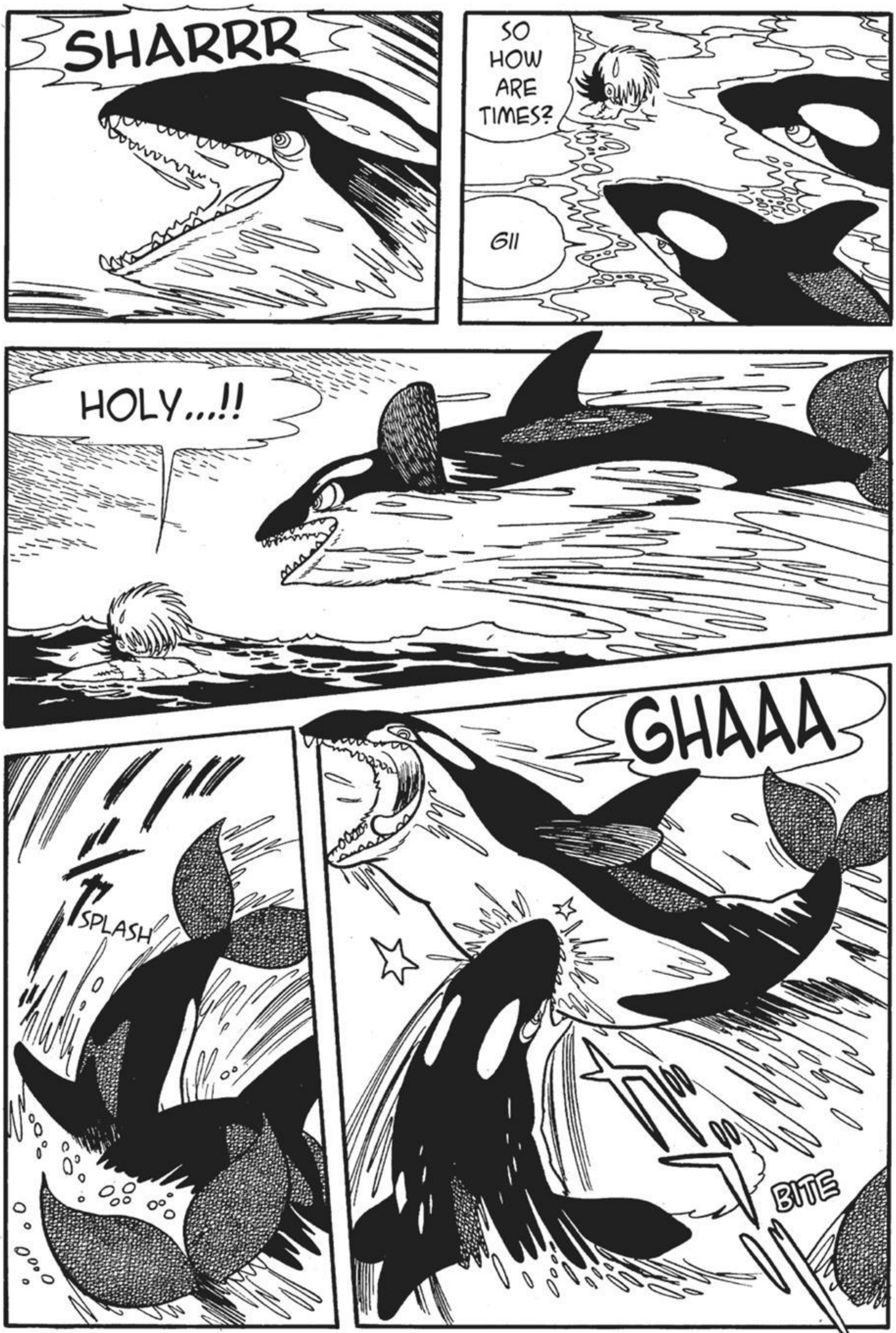

THAT SHOULD DO.
GII
YOU WON'T BLEED TO DEATH NOW.
REST UP HERE FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS.
AFTER THAT, YOU'LL BE SWIMMING AGAIN.
I RETURNED TO THE COVE A COUPLE OF DAYS LATER.
WHERE IS IT?!

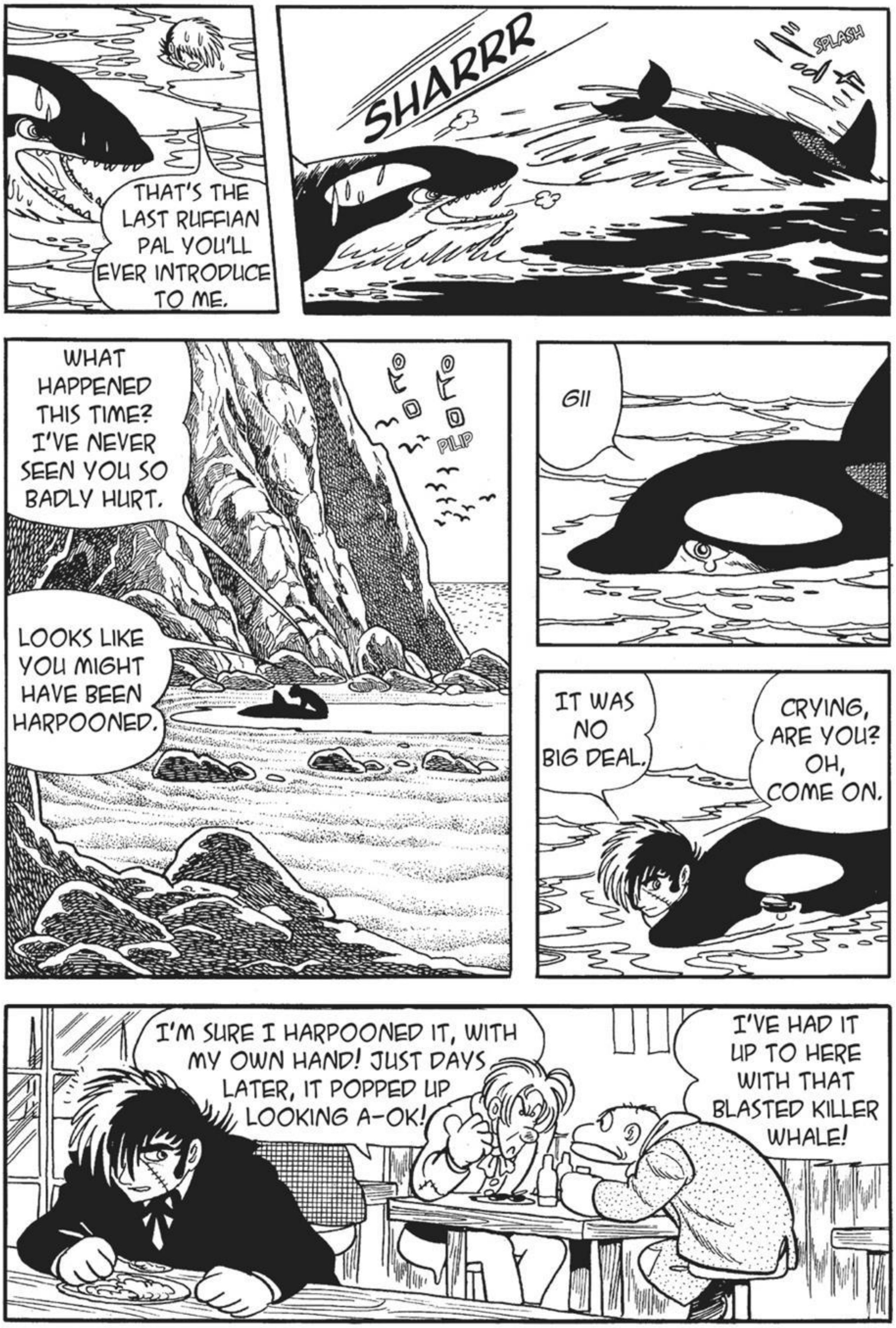

SPLASH!
AH, THERE YOU ARE.
HEY, TAKE IT EASY!
SPLASH
SO IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY—WILD ANIMALS HEAL FAST.
GII
A PEARL!
PLOP
チャポリ
THIS IS FOR ME?
YOU KNOW YOUR MANNERS, I SEE.
IT'S A FINE GIFT.
THANK YOU.
GII
SINCE THEN, HE AND I
CONTINUED TO SEE EACH OTHER,
ALWAYS THAT COVE
AS OUR DATE SPOT.

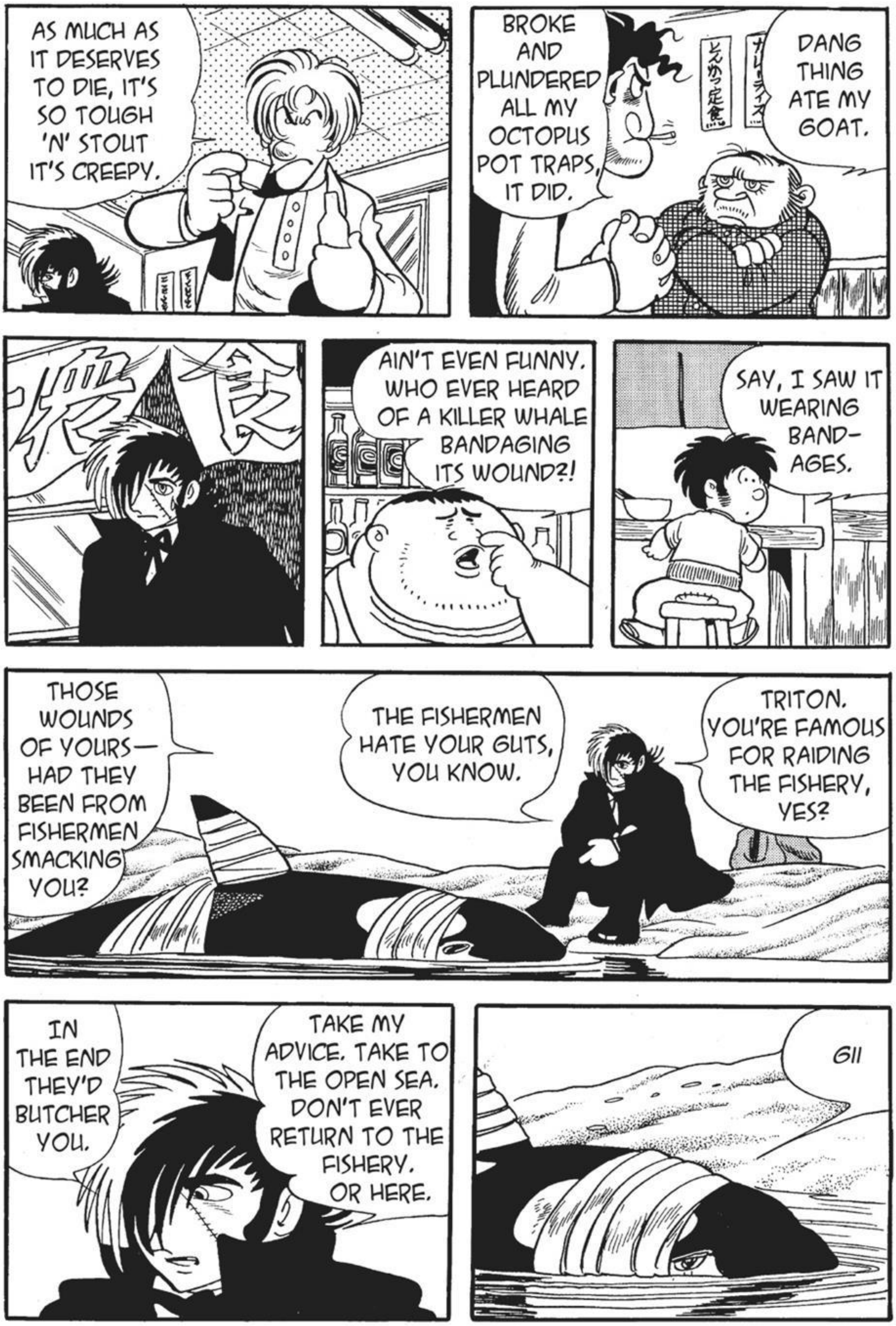

AN EXTENDED STAY IS IN ORDER FOR A HOOLIGAN LIKE YOU.
HMM... DID YOU GET WHACKED ONE THIS TIME...
OR SMASH INTO SOME ROCK?
OH, MAN... YOU HURT AGAIN?!
MAYBE I SHOULD GIVE UP TREATING HUMANS AND BECOME A VET.
I KNOW IT STINGS. BEAR THAT MUCH.
HEEE
YIKES!
SPLASH
THERE. ALL DONE.
DON'T CRY! MALES DON'T.
HEE
LET'S SEE, A CONTINUING PATIENT... THAT'LL BE ¥100,000.

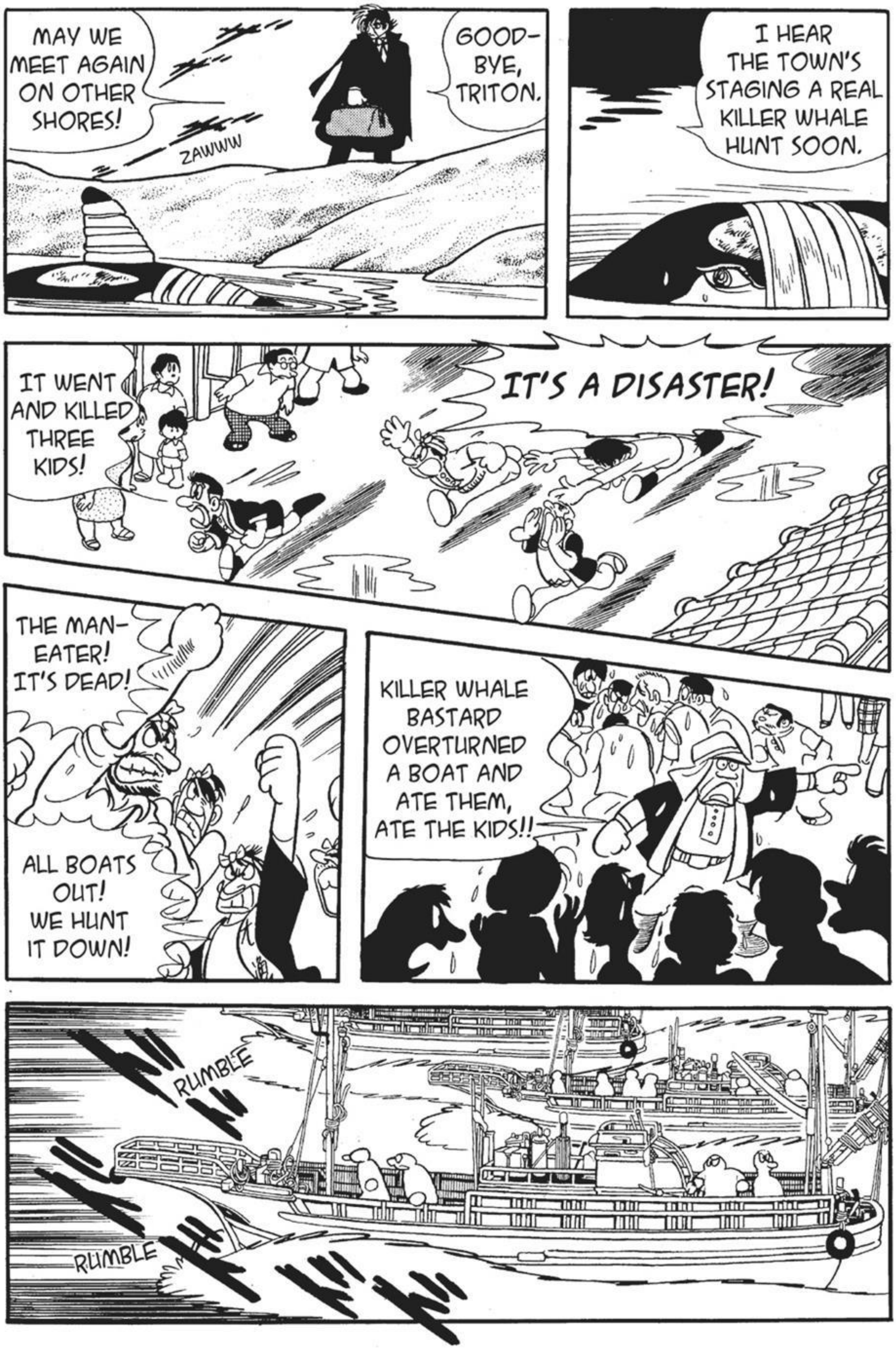

GII
AREN'T YOU WELL-PREPARED!
YOU GOT ME.
PLIP
HE'D HAVE ME TREAT HIM IN PEACE, WITH SUCH COMPLETE TRUST.
I MADE A MEDICAL FILE— FOR "TRITON."
GII
IT GREW, FAST. NEVER DID TEN DAYS PASS BY THAT HE DIDN'T SEEK, NEWLY WOUNDED, REFUGE WITH ME.
EACH TIME, HE BROUGHT SOMETHING IN HIS MOUTH. USUALLY PEARLS, BUT SOMETIMES CORAL. ONCE, AN OLD GOLD COIN.

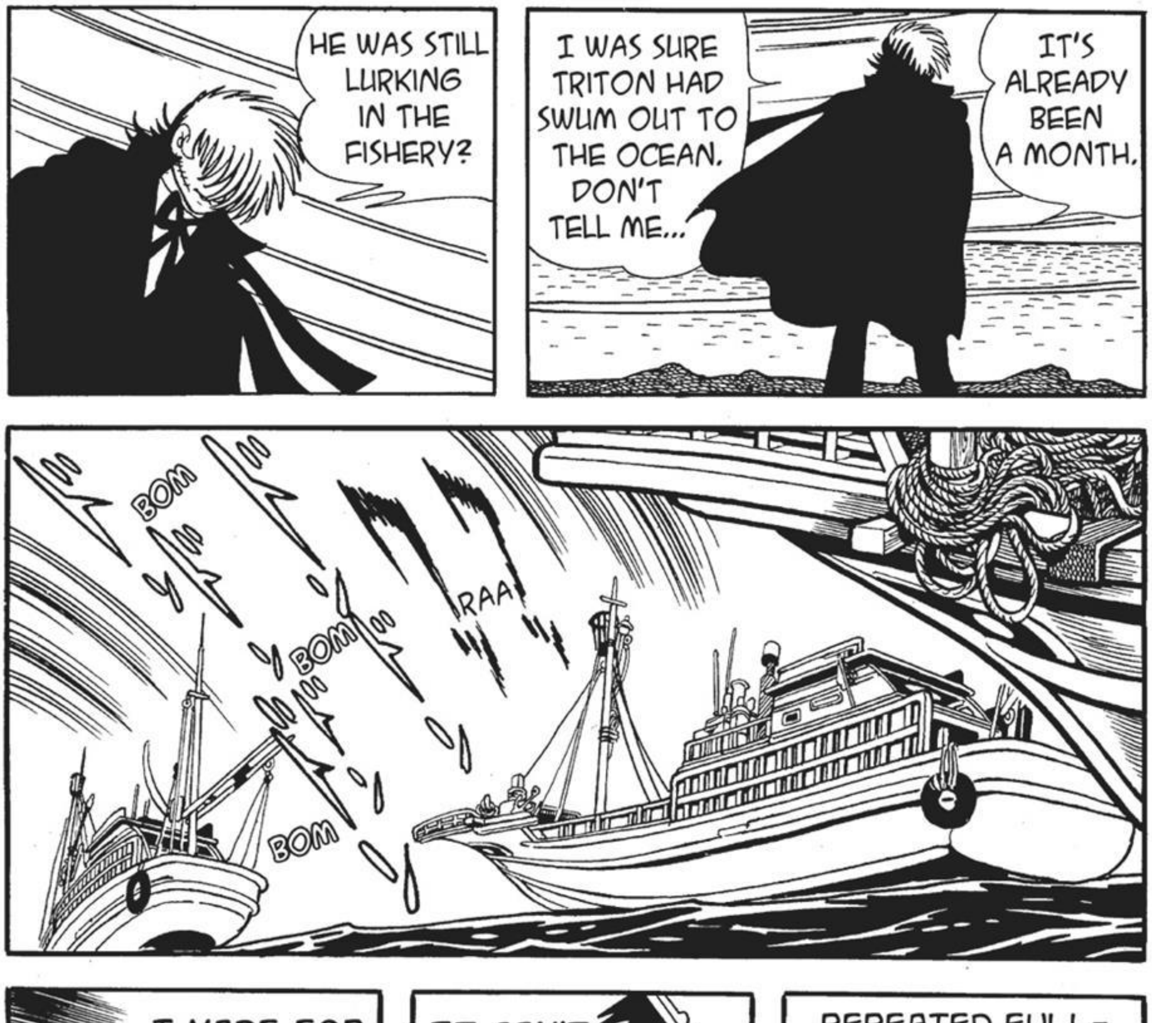

GII
A NUMBER OF TIMES AFTER HE HEALED, I SWAM WITH HIM.
NATURALLY, MY SCAR-RIDDLED BODY DIDN'T BOTHER HIM ONE BIT.
ZSH-ZSH-ZSH
HE GAVE ME LESSONS IN SPEED SWIMMING.
HE TURNED UP WITH A KILLER WHALE FRIEND ONE DAY.
A SHARED LAUGHTER CAME FROM OUR HEARTS AS WE SWAM—STRANGE TO SAY ABOUT TRITON, BUT I'M SURE OF IT.
GII

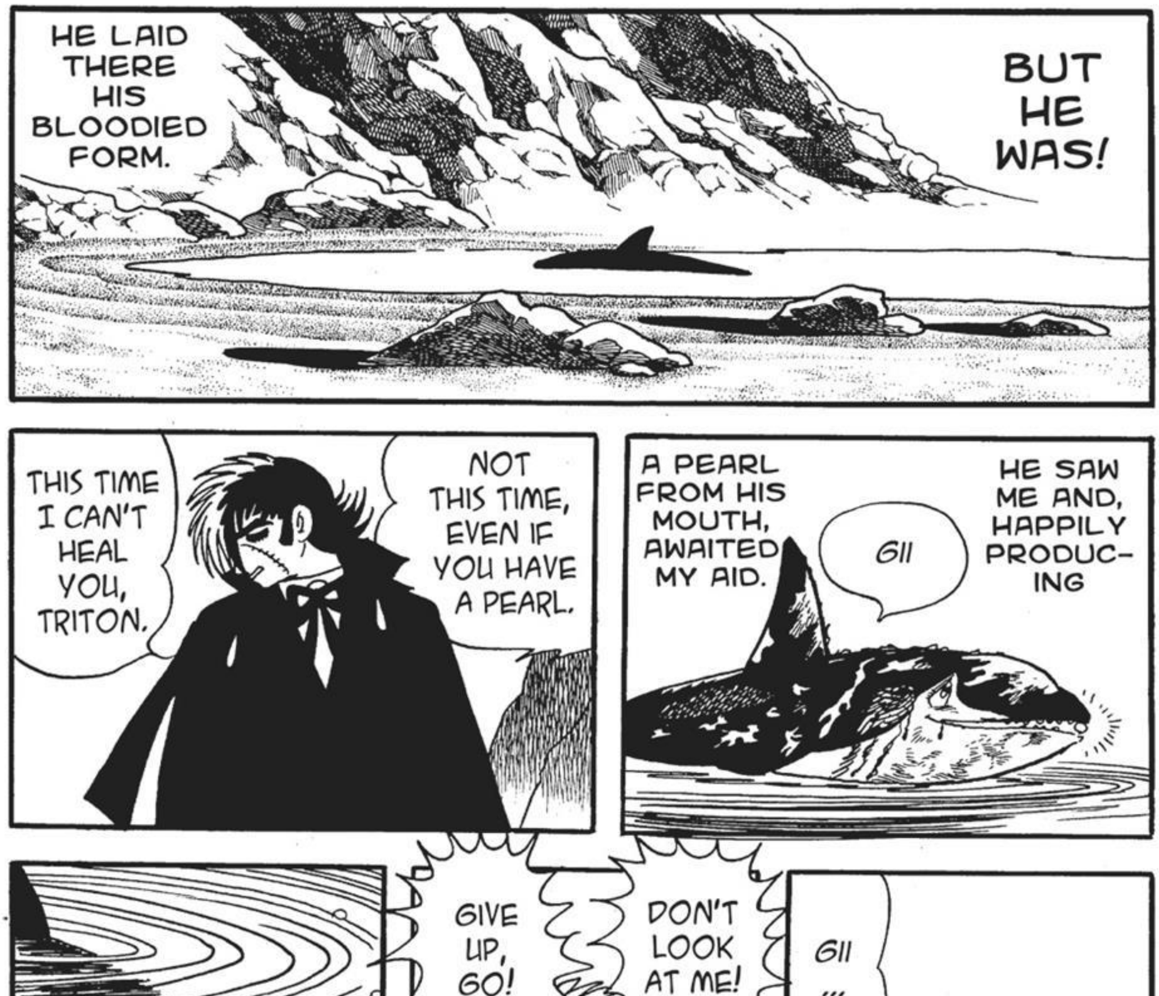

SO HOW ARE TIMES?
GII
SHARRR
HOLY...!!
GHAAA
BITE
SPLASH

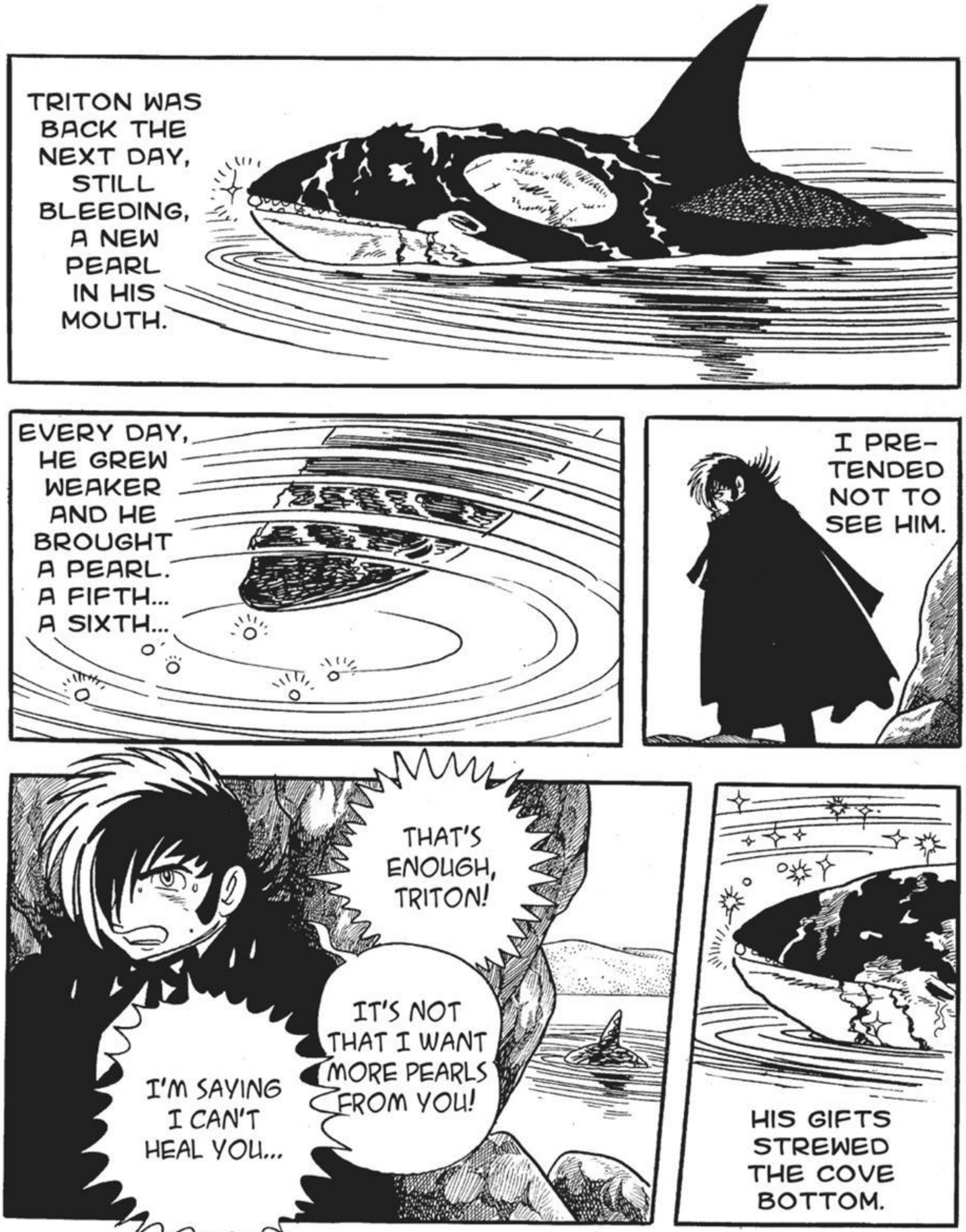

THAT'S THE LAST RUFFIAN PAL YOU'LL EVER INTRODUCE TO ME.
SHARRR
SPLASH
WHAT HAPPENED THIS TIME? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU SO BADLY HURT.
PLIP
LOOKS LIKE YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN HARPOONED.
GII
IT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
CRYING, ARE YOU? OH, COME ON.
I'M SURE I HARPOONED IT, WITH MY OWN HAND! JUST DAYS LATER, IT POPPED UP LOOKING A-OK!
I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH THAT BLASTED KILLER WHALE!

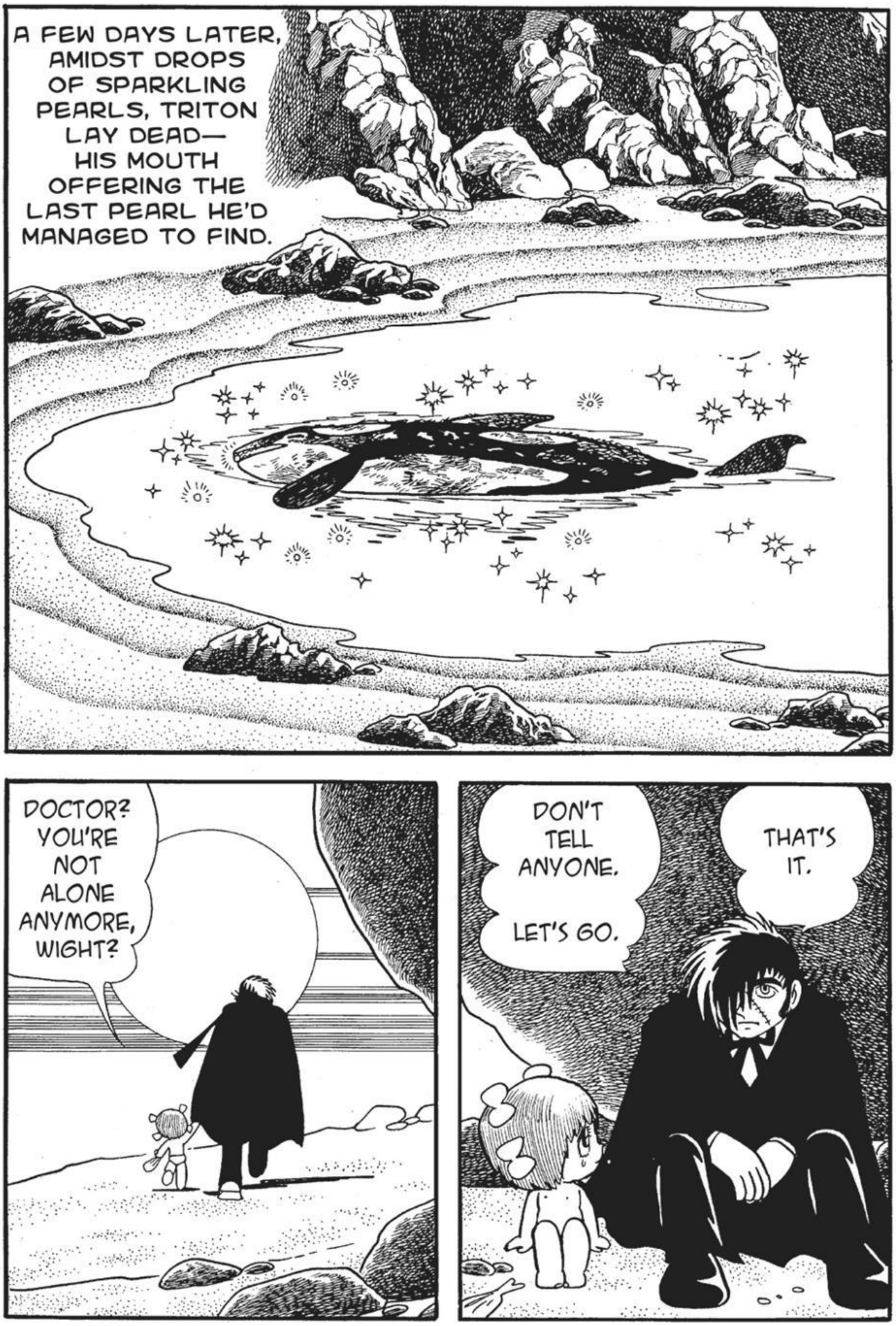

AS MUCH AS IT DESERVES TO DIE, IT'S SO TOUGH 'N' STOUT IT'S CREEPY.
BROKE AND PLUNDERED ALL MY OCTOPUS POT TRAPS, IT DID.
とんかつ定食
DANG THING ATE MY GOAT.
AIN'T EVEN FUNNY. WHO EVER HEARD OF A KILLER WHALE BANDAGING ITS WOUND?!
SAY, I SAW IT WEARING BANDAGES.
TRITON. YOU'RE FAMOUS FOR RAIDING THE FISHERY, YES?
THE FISHERMEN HATE YOUR GUTS, YOU KNOW.
THOSE WOUNDS OF YOURS—HAD THEY BEEN FROM FISHERMEN SMACKING YOU?
IN THE END THEY'D BUTCHER YOU.
TAKE MY ADVICE. TAKE TO THE OPEN SEA. DON'T EVER RETURN TO THE FISHERY. OR HERE.
GII


I HEAR THE TOWN'S STAGING A REAL KILLER WHALE HUNT SOON.
GOOD-BYE, TRITON.
MAY WE MEET AGAIN ON OTHER SHORES!
ZAWWW
IT'S A DISASTER!
IT WENT AND KILLED THREE KIDS!
KILLER WHALE BASTARD OVERTURNED A BOAT AND ATE THEM, ATE THE KIDS!!
THE MAN-EATER! IT'S DEAD!
ALL BOATS OUT! WE HUNT IT DOWN!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

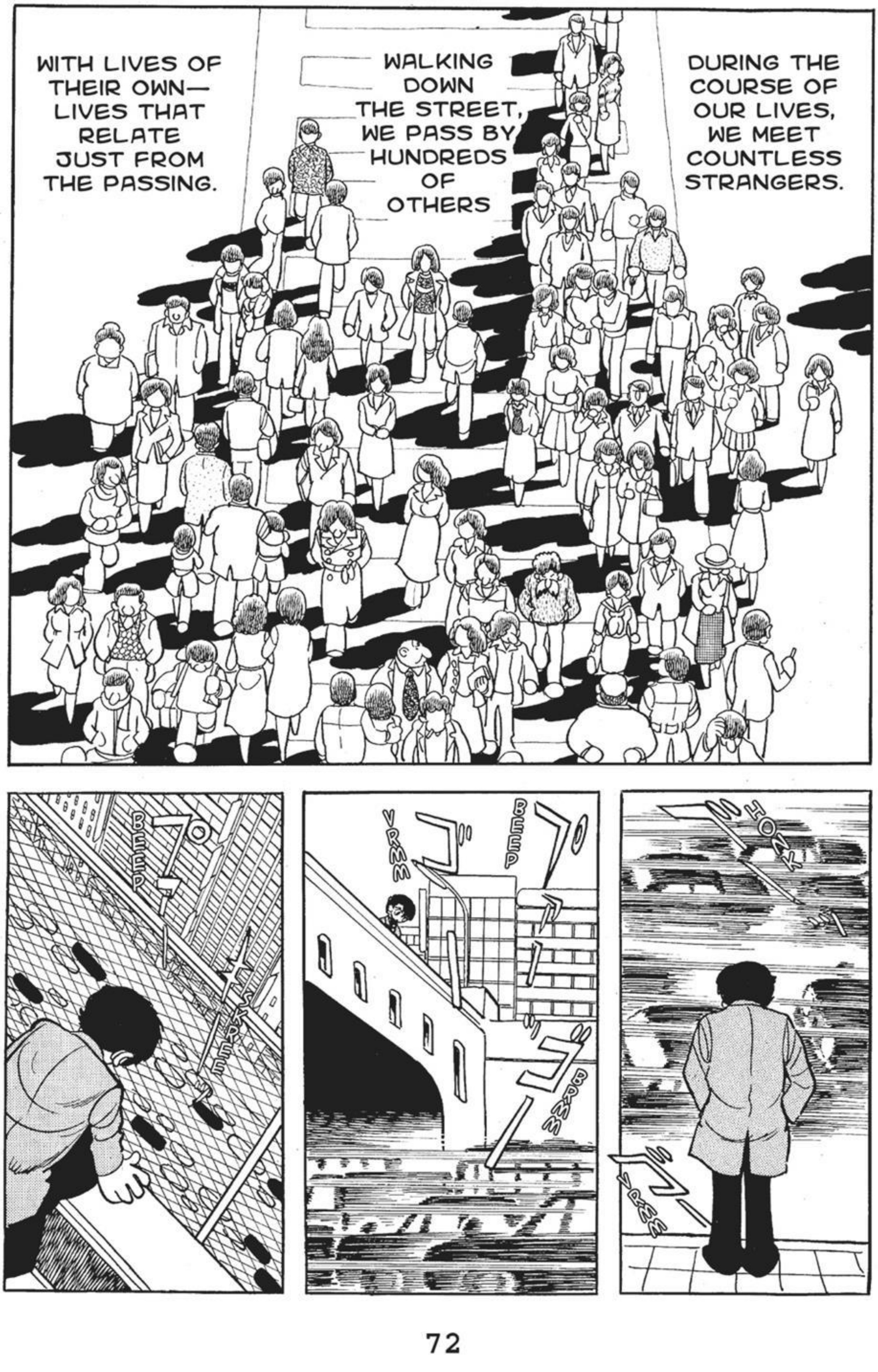

HE WAS STILL LURKING IN THE FISHERY?
I WAS SURE TRITON HAD SWUM OUT TO THE OCEAN. DON'T TELL ME...
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A MONTH.
BOM
BOM
RAA
BOM
I MADE FOR THE COVE... "PLEASE DON'T BE THERE, TRITON!"
IT CAN'T BE... THINKING IT CAN'T BE,
REPEATED FULL-FLEDGED HUNTS RAKED THE HARBOR IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE NEWS WAS THAT THEY'D CHASED DOWN AND MAIMED THE KILLER WHALE.
BANG!

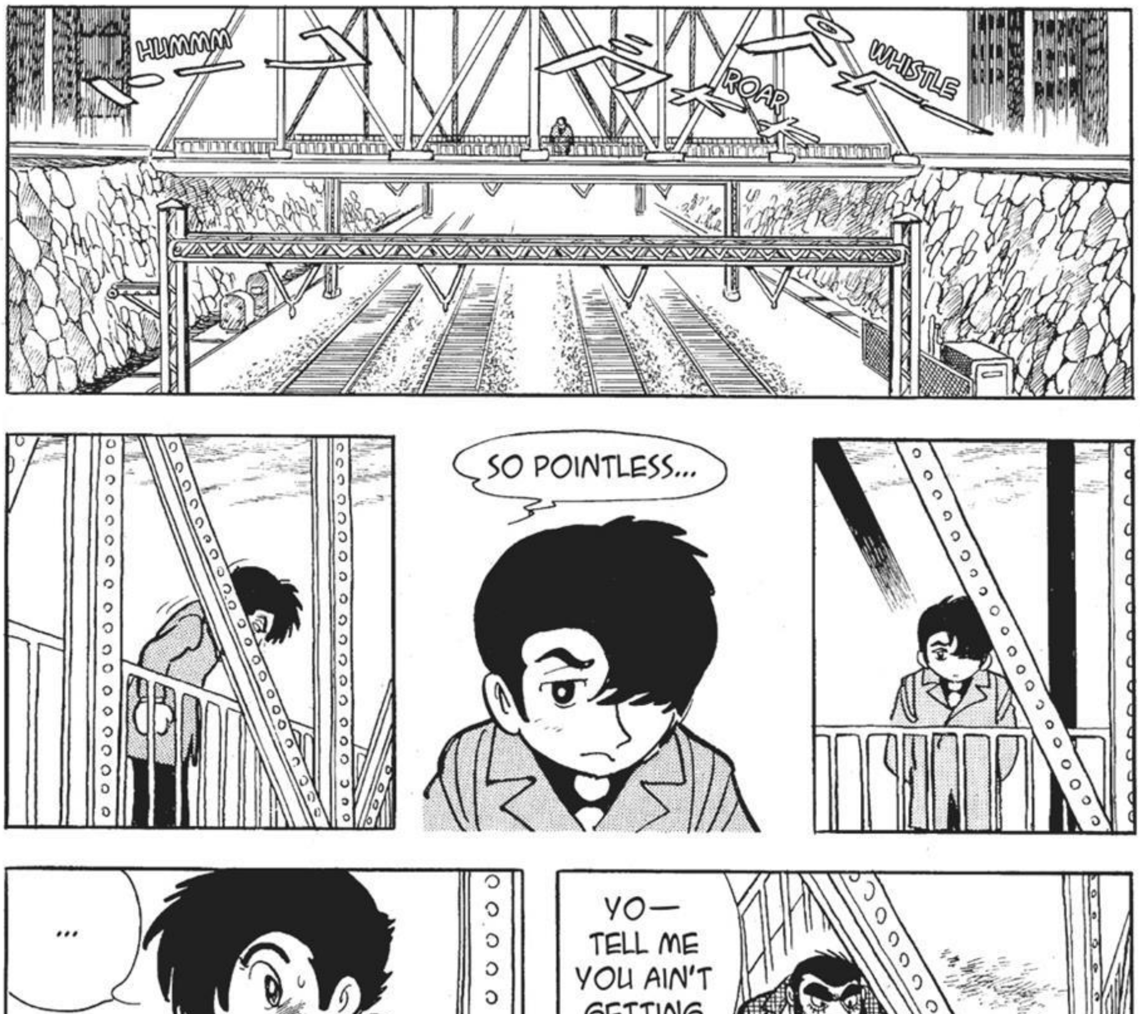

BUT HE WAS!
HE LAID THERE HIS BLOODIED FORM.
HE SAW ME AND, HAPPILY PRODUCING
GII
A PEARL FROM HIS MOUTH, AWAITED MY AID.
NOT THIS TIME, EVEN IF YOU HAVE A PEARL.
THIS TIME I CAN'T HEAL YOU, TRITON.
GII ...
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
GIVE UP, GO!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO COME BACK.

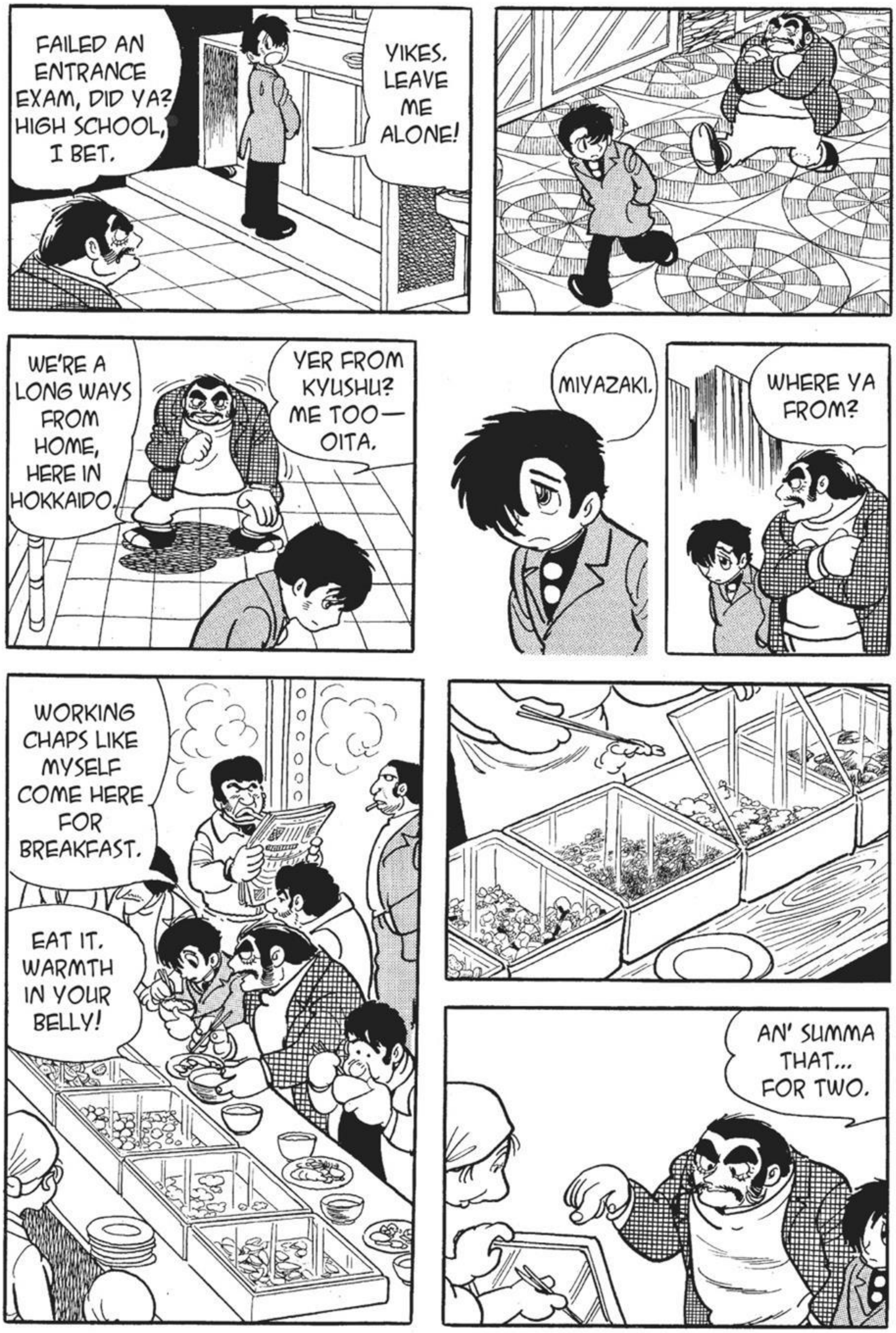

TRITON WAS BACK THE NEXT DAY, STILL BLEEDING, A NEW PEARL IN HIS MOUTH.
EVERY DAY, HE GREW WEAKER AND HE BROUGHT A PEARL. A FIFTH... A SIXTH...
I PRETENDED NOT TO SEE HIM.
THAT'S ENOUGH, TRITON!
IT'S NOT THAT I WANT MORE PEARLS FROM YOU!
I'M SAYING I CAN'T HEAL YOU...
HIS GIFTS STREWED THE COVE BOTTOM.
I CAN'T HEAL YOU ANYMORE!
GII

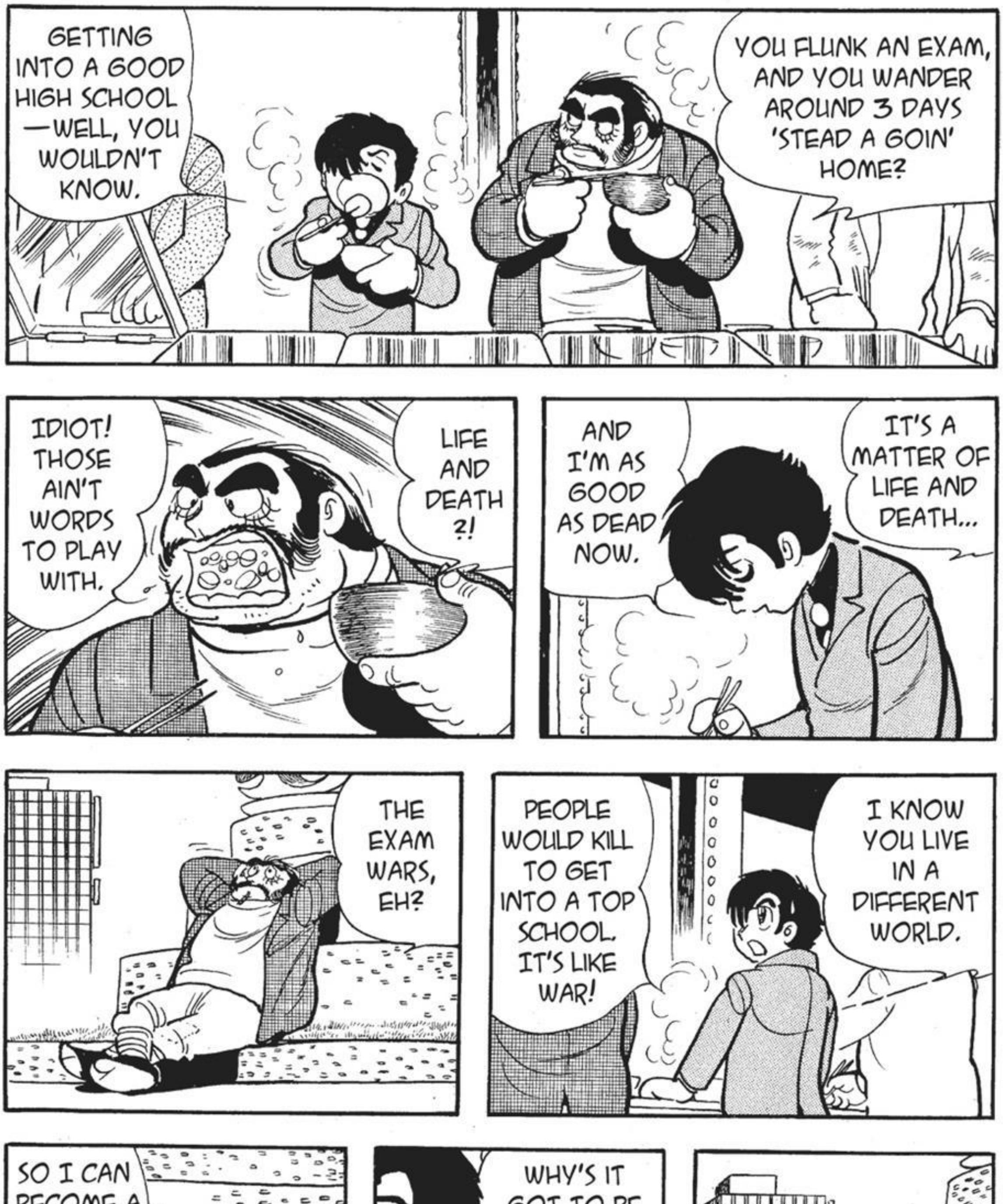

A FEW DAYS LATER, AMIDST DROPS OF SPARKLING PEARLS, TRITON LAY DEAD— HIS MOUTH OFFERING THE LAST PEARL HE'D MANAGED TO FIND.
DOCTOR? YOU'RE NOT ALONE ANYMORE, WIGHT?
DON'T TELL ANYONE.
LET'S GO.
THAT'S IT.

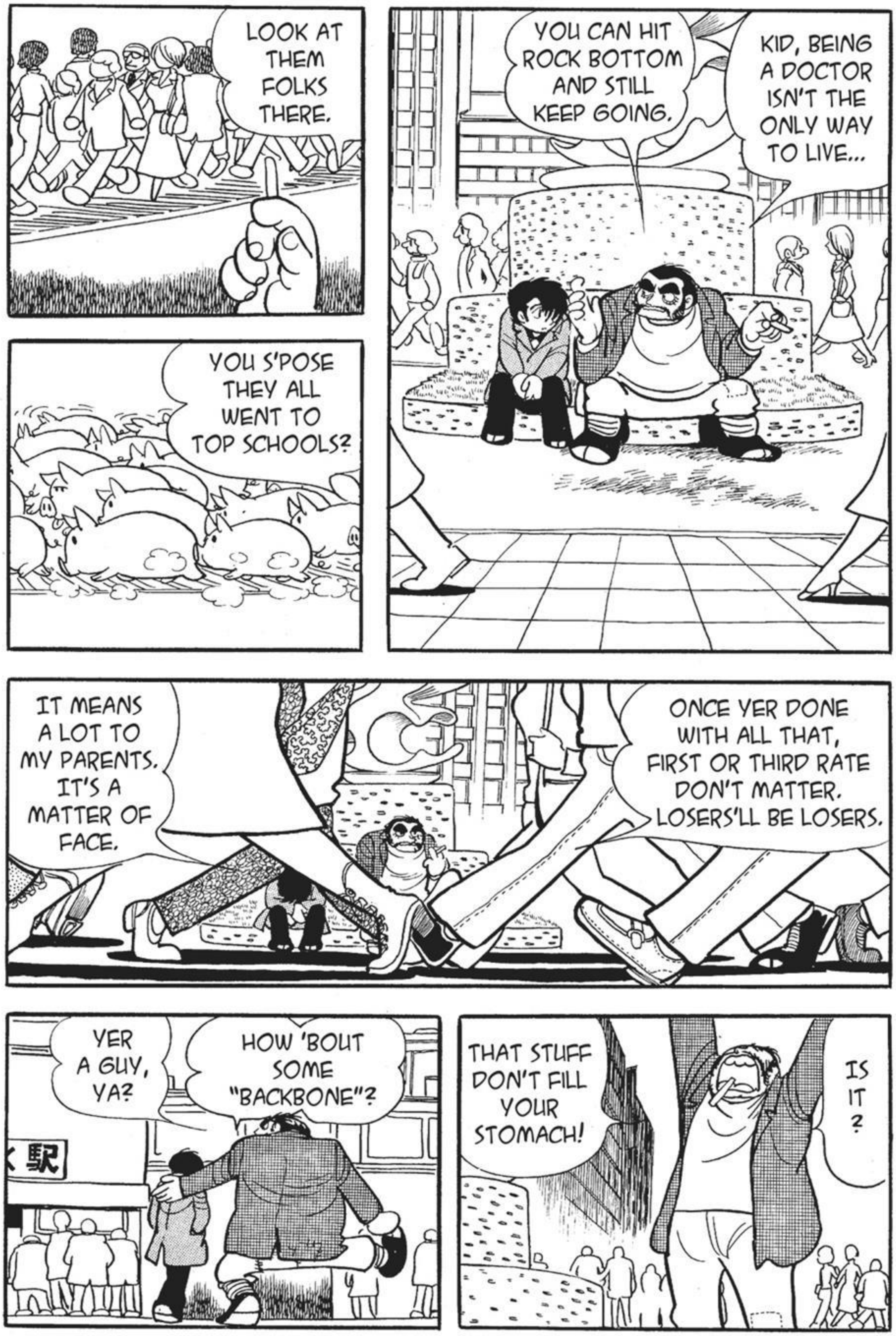
TO EACH HIS OWN

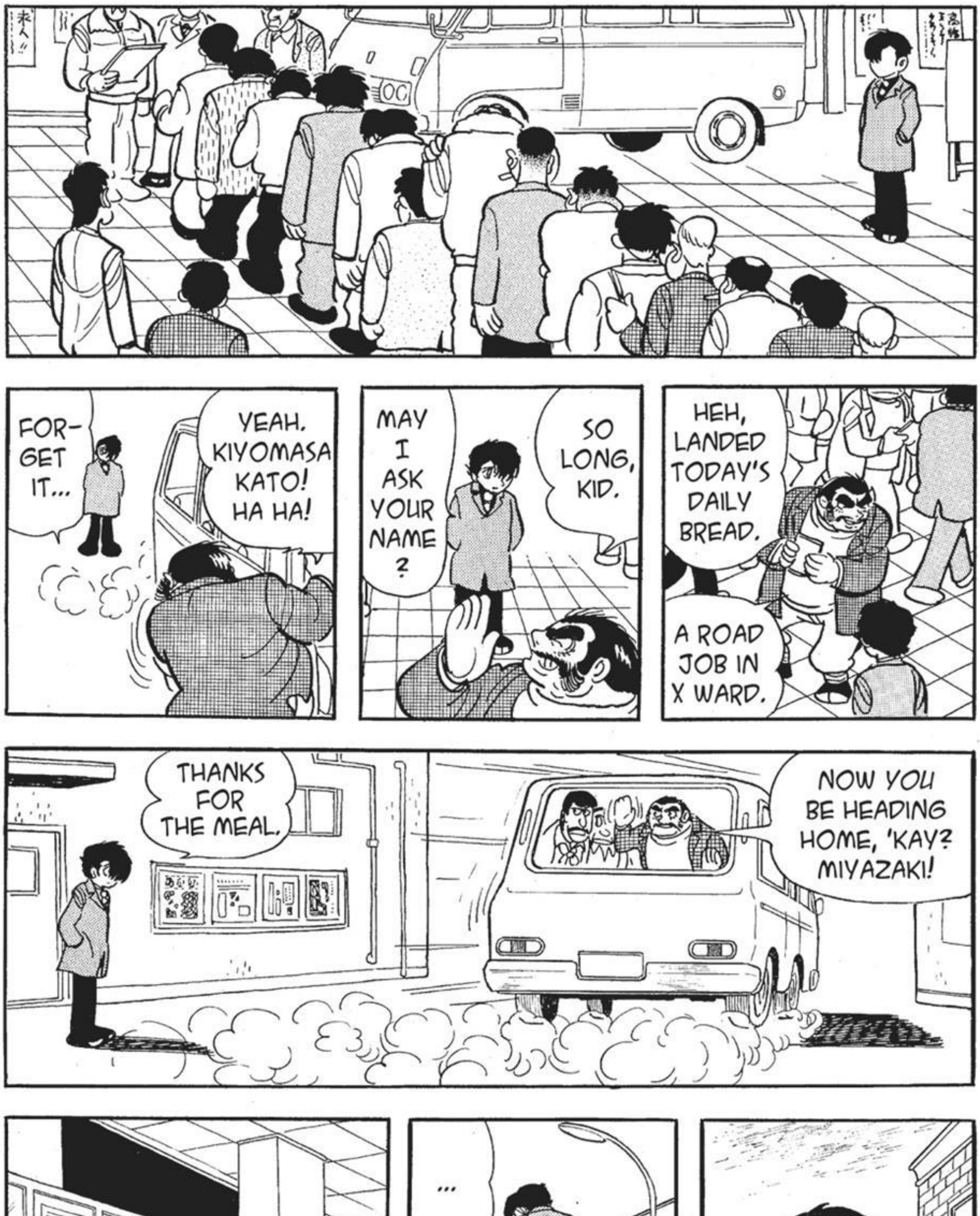

DURING THE COURSE OF OUR LIVES, WE MEET COUNTLESS STRANGERS.
WALKING DOWN THE STREET, WE PASS BY HUNDREDS OF OTHERS
WITH LIVES OF THEIR OWN— LIVES THAT RELATE JUST FROM THE PASSING.
HONK
VRMM
BEEP
VRMM
BRMM
BEEP
SKREE


WHISTLE
ROAR
HUMMM
SO POINTLESS...
YO— TELL ME YOU AIN'T GETTING ANY WEIRD IDEAS.
JOLT
...
YER WHITE AS A SHEET AND
GOT DESPAIR WRITTEN ALL OVER YER FACE.
NOW WAIT A SEC.

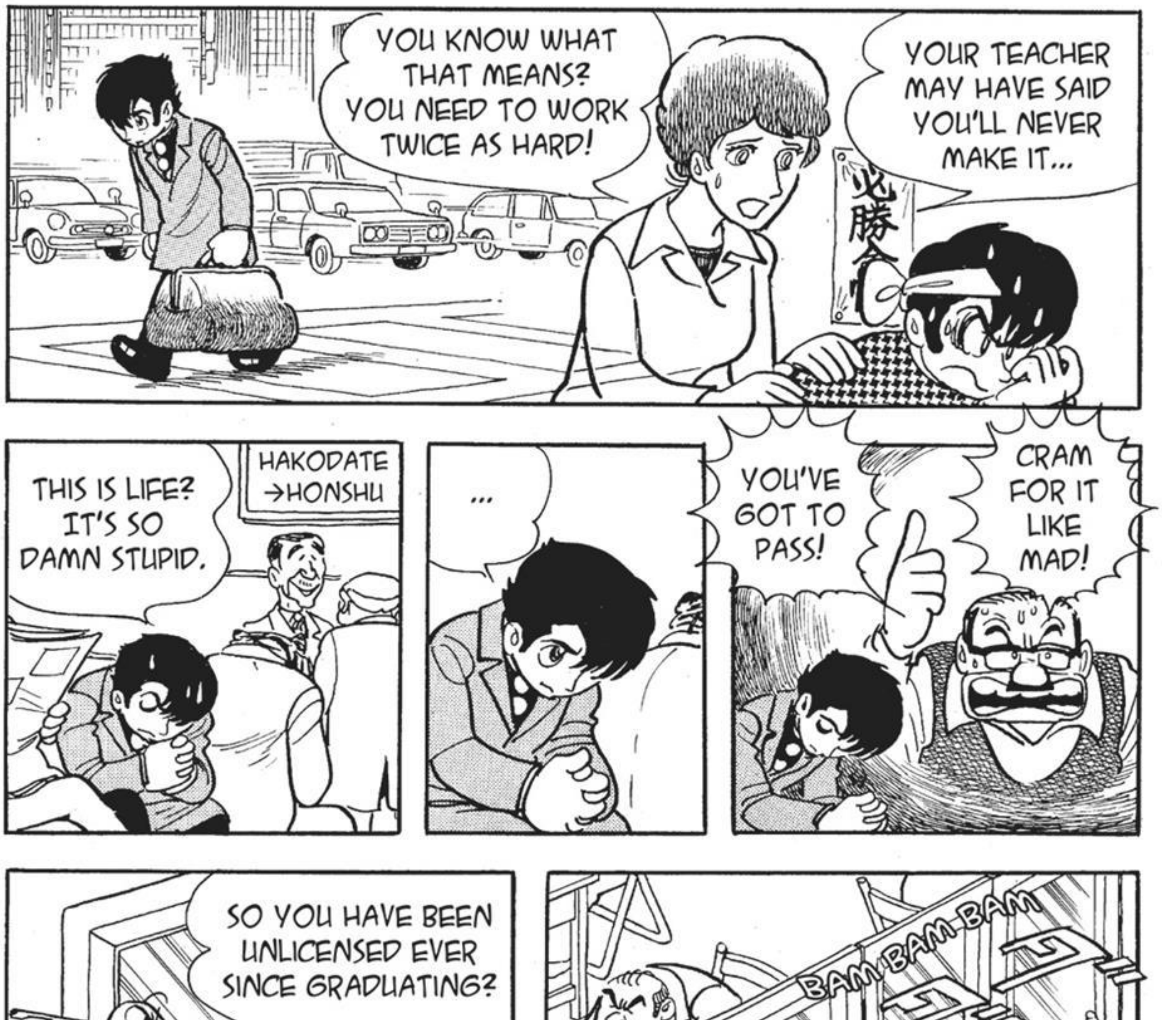

FAILED AN ENTRANCE EXAM, DID YA? HIGH SCHOOL, I BET.
YIKES. LEAVE ME ALONE!
WHERE YA FROM?
MIYAZAKI.
YER FROM KYUSHU? ME TOO— OITA.
WE'RE A LONG WAYS FROM HOME, HERE IN HOKKAIDO.
AN' SUMMA THAT... FOR TWO.
WORKING CHAPS LIKE MYSELF COME HERE FOR BREAKFAST.
EAT IT. WARMTH IN YOUR BELLY!

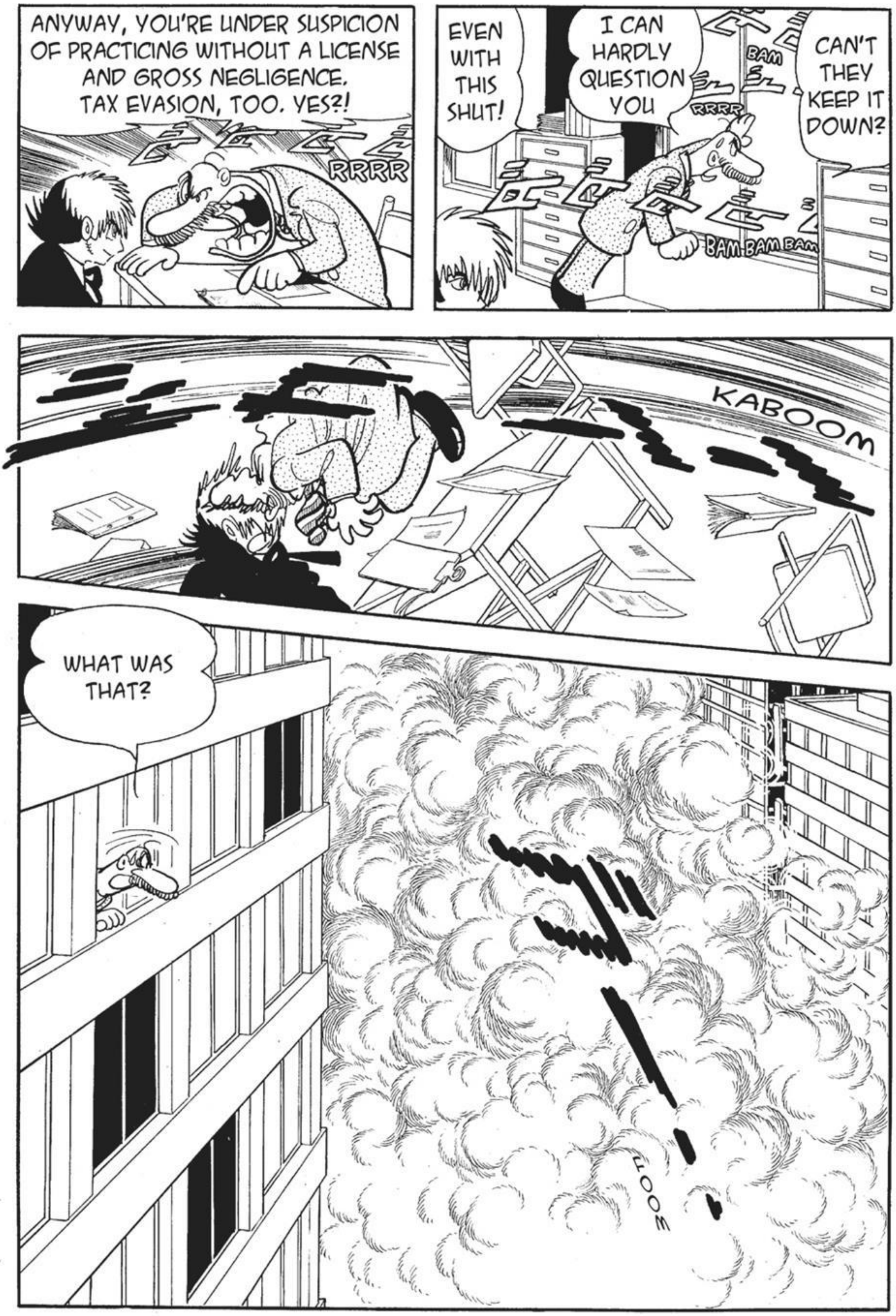

YOU FLUNK AN EXAM, AND YOU WANDER AROUND 3 DAYS 'STEAD A GOIN' HOME?
GETTING INTO A GOOD HIGH SCHOOL—WELL, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW.
IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH...
AND I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD NOW.
LIFE AND DEATH?!
IDIOT! THOSE AIN'T WORDS TO PLAY WITH.
I KNOW YOU LIVE IN A DIFFERENT WORLD.
PEOPLE WOULD KILL TO GET INTO A TOP SCHOOL. IT'S LIKE WAR!
THE EXAM WARS, EH?
WHY'S IT GOT TO BE A TOP SCHOOL?
SO I CAN BECOME A DOCTOR. MY DAD'S SET ON IT.

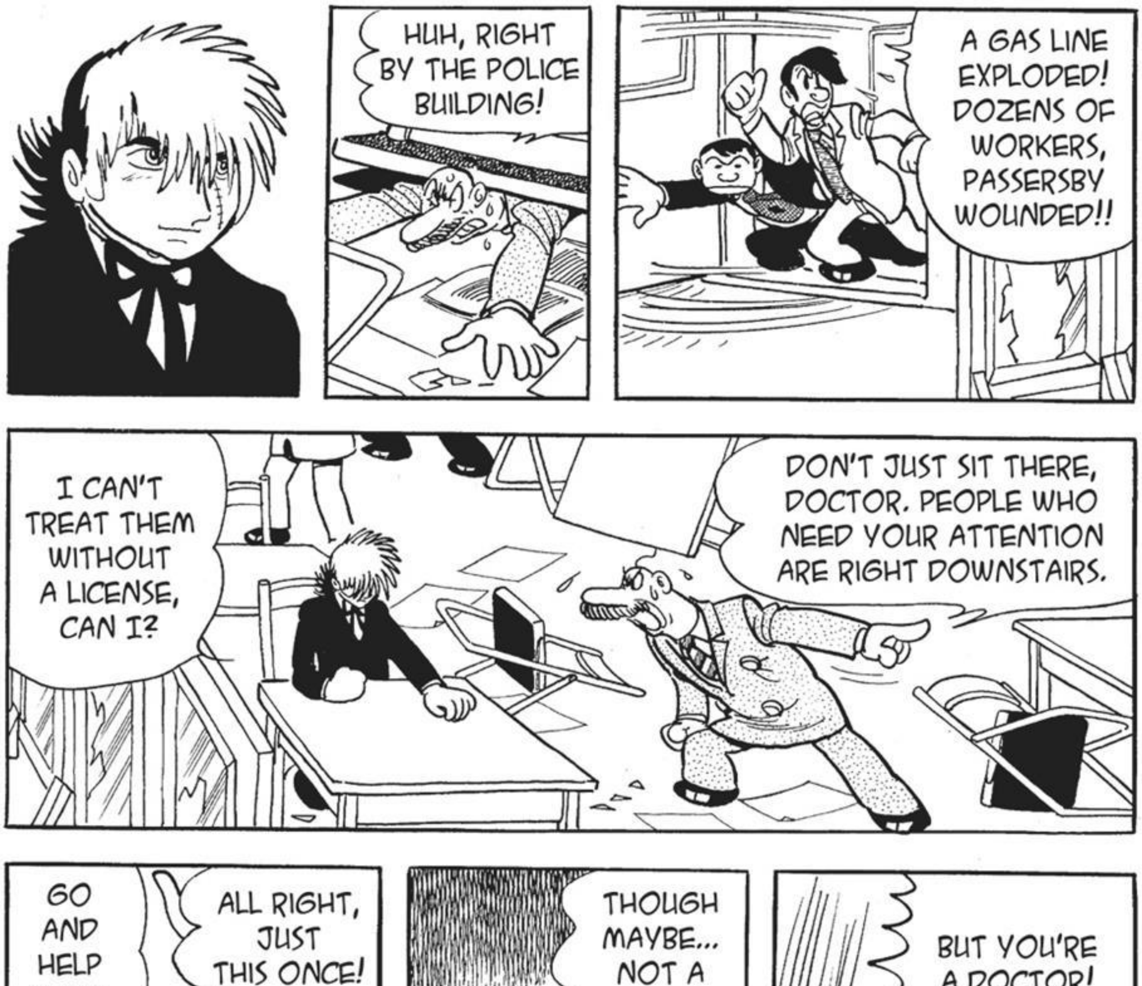

KID, BEING A DOCTOR ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE...
YOU CAN HIT ROCK BOTTOM AND STILL KEEP GOING.
LOOK AT THEM FOLKS THERE.
YOU S'POSE THEY ALL WENT TO TOP SCHOOLS?
ONCE YER DONE WITH ALL THAT, FIRST OR THIRD RATE DON'T MATTER. LOSERS'LL BE LOSERS.
IT MEANS A LOT TO MY PARENTS. IT'S A MATTER OF FACE.
IS IT?
THAT STUFF DON'T FILL YOUR STOMACH!
HOW 'BOUT SOME "BACKBONE"?
YER A GUY, YA?
駅

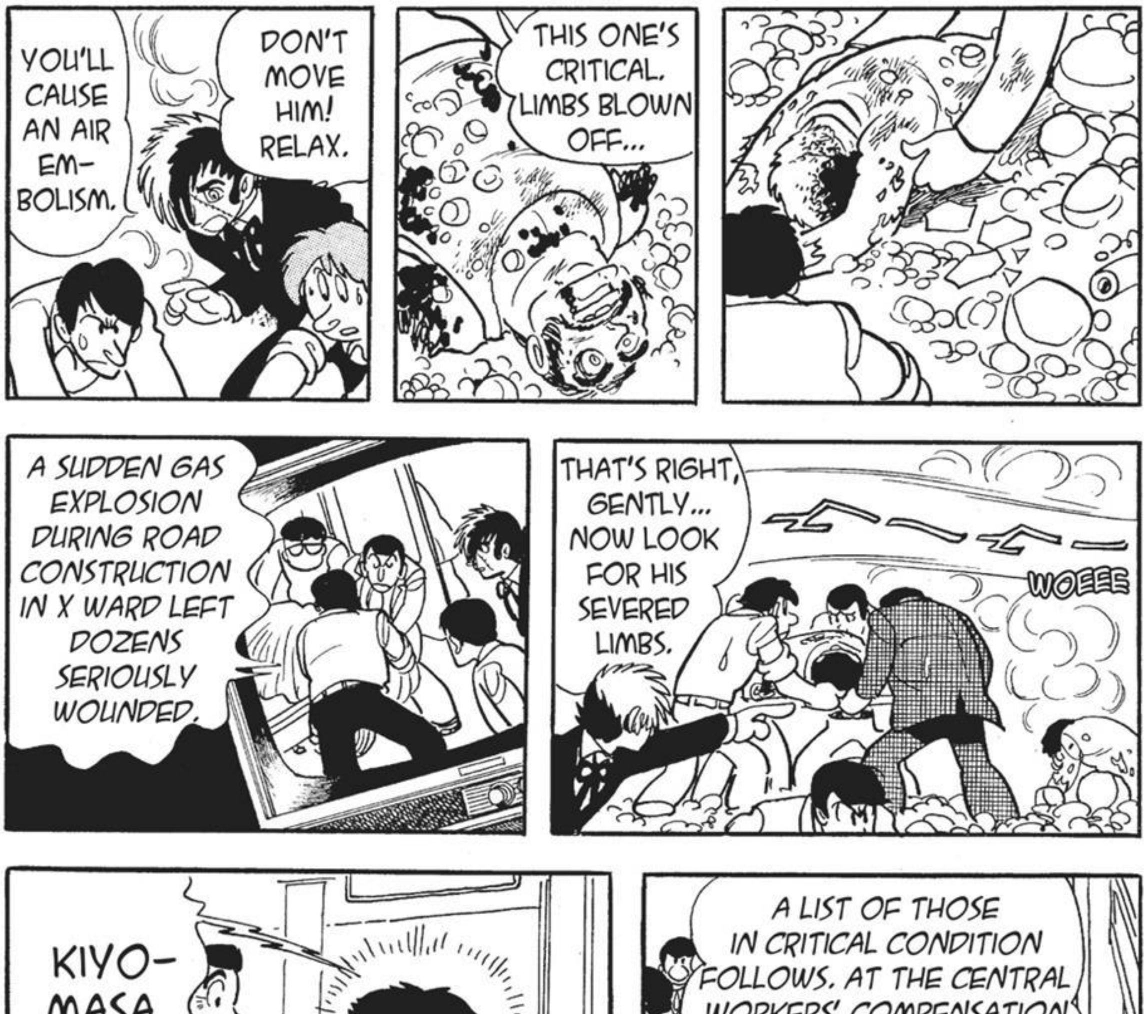

求人!!
HEH, LANDED TODAY'S DAILY BREAD.
A ROAD JOB IN X WARD.
SO LONG, KID.
MAY I ASK YOUR NAME?
YEAH. KIYOMASA KATO! HA HA!
FOR-GET IT...
NOW YOU BE HEADING HOME, 'KAY? MIYAZAKI!
THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
...

NOTE: KIYOMASA KATO = A DAIMYO OF FEUDAL-ERA KYUSHU KNOWN FOR HIS PROWESS

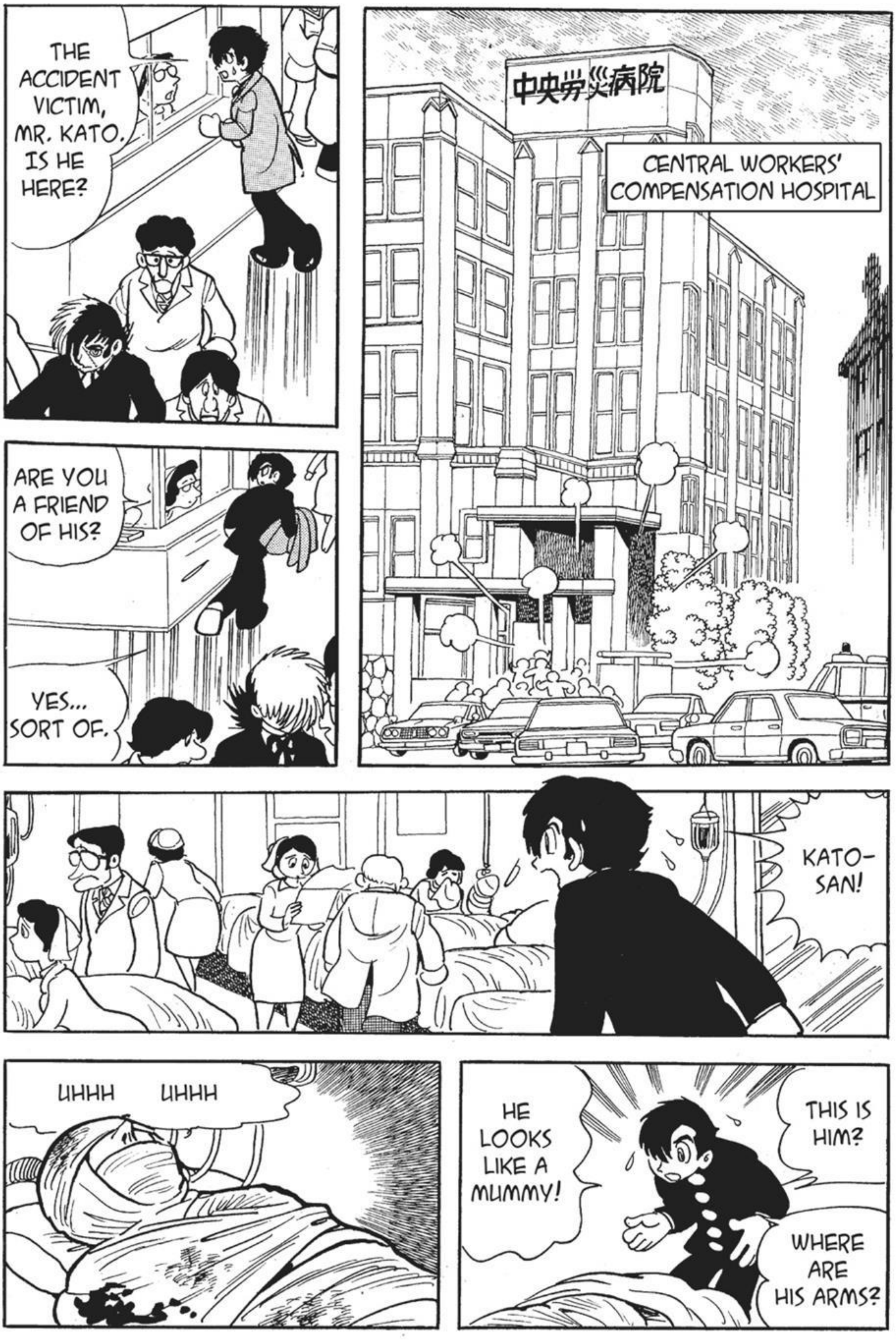

YOUR TEACHER MAY HAVE SAID YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT...
必勝
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS? YOU NEED TO WORK TWICE AS HARD!
CRAM FOR IT LIKE MAD!
YOU'VE GOT TO PASS!
...
HAKODATE →HONSHU
THIS IS LIFE? IT'S SO DAMN STUPID.
BAM BAM BAM
RRRRRRRR
BAM BAM
SO YOU HAVE BEEN UNLICENSED EVER SINCE GRADUATING?
BAM BAM
RRRRR
HOW MANY OPERATIONS SO FAR? BOTCHED SOME, YES?

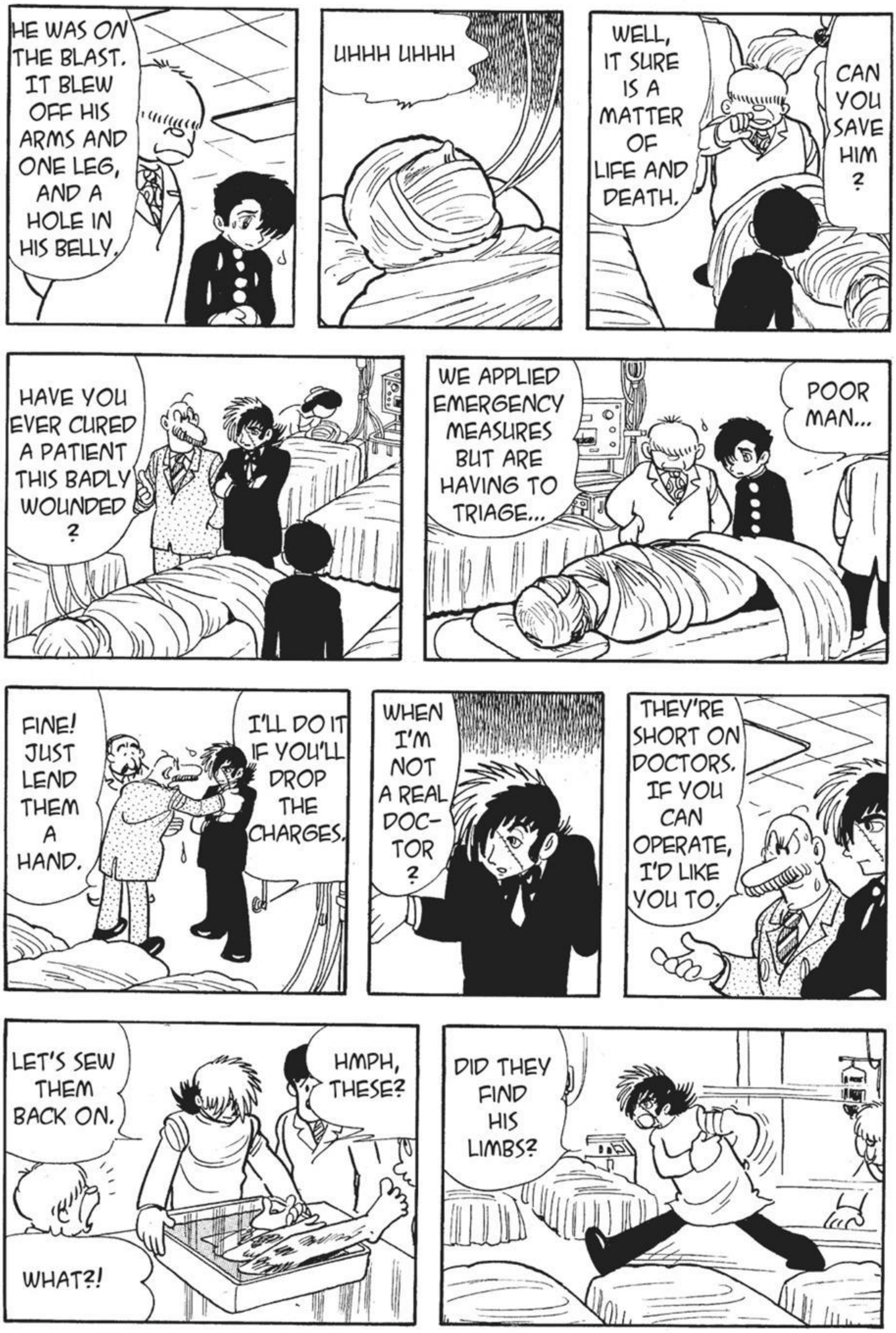

ANYWAY, YOU'RE UNDER SUSPICION OF PRACTICING WITHOUT A LICENSE AND GROSS NEGLIGENCE. TAX EVASION, TOO. YES?!
RRRR
EVEN WITH THIS SHUT!
I CAN HARDLY QUESTION YOU
BAM
RRRR
CAN'T THEY KEEP IT DOWN?
BAM BAM BAM
KABOOM
WHAT WAS THAT?
FOOM

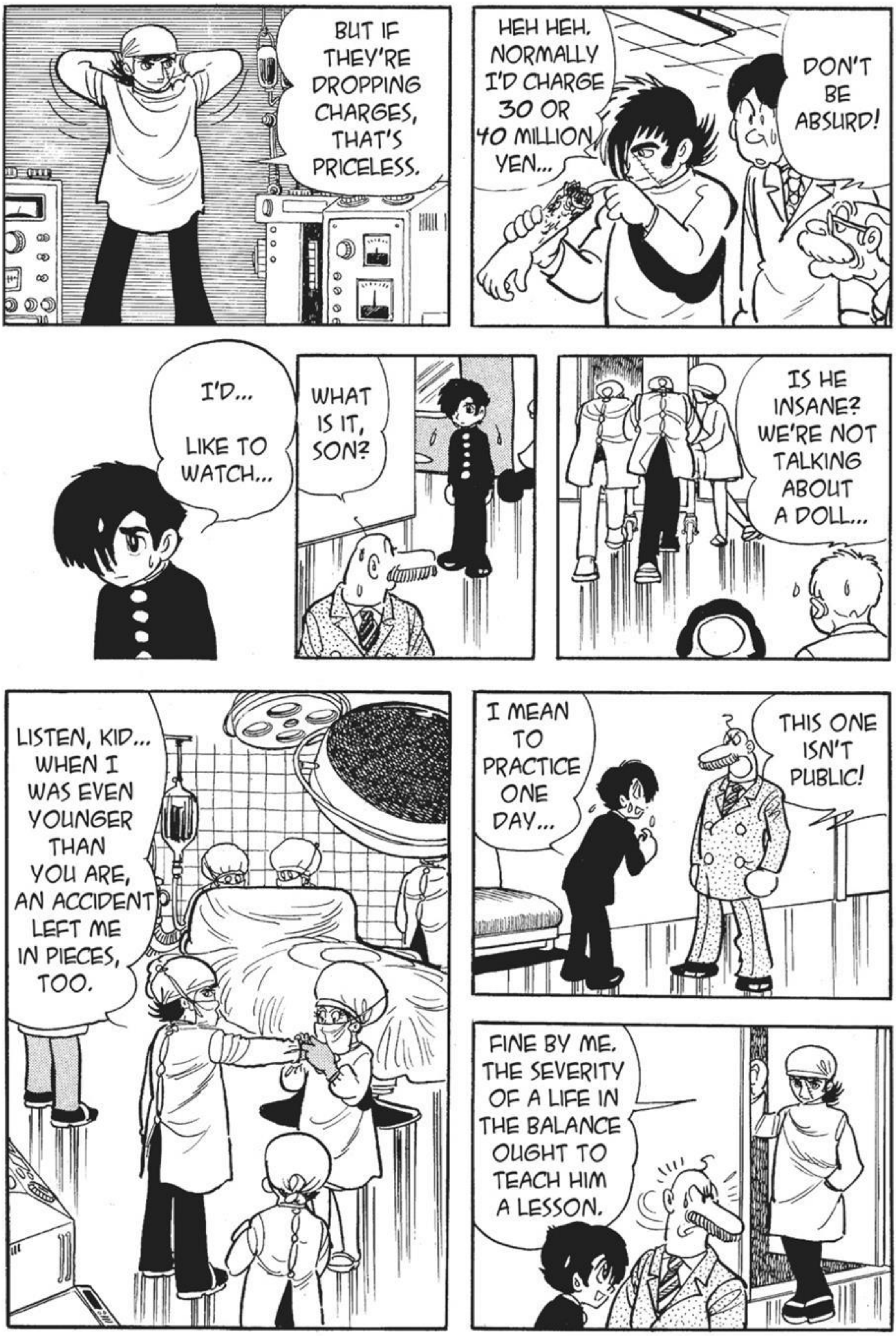

A GAS LINE EXPLODED! DOZENS OF WORKERS, PASSERSBY WOUNDED!!
HUH, RIGHT BY THE POLICE BUILDING!
DON'T JUST SIT THERE, DOCTOR. PEOPLE WHO NEED YOUR ATTENTION ARE RIGHT DOWNSTAIRS.
I CAN'T TREAT THEM WITHOUT A LICENSE, CAN I?
BUT YOU'RE A DOCTOR!
THOUGH MAYBE... NOT A REAL ONE...
ALL RIGHT, JUST THIS ONCE!
GO AND HELP THEM PLEASE!
GOOD GOD.

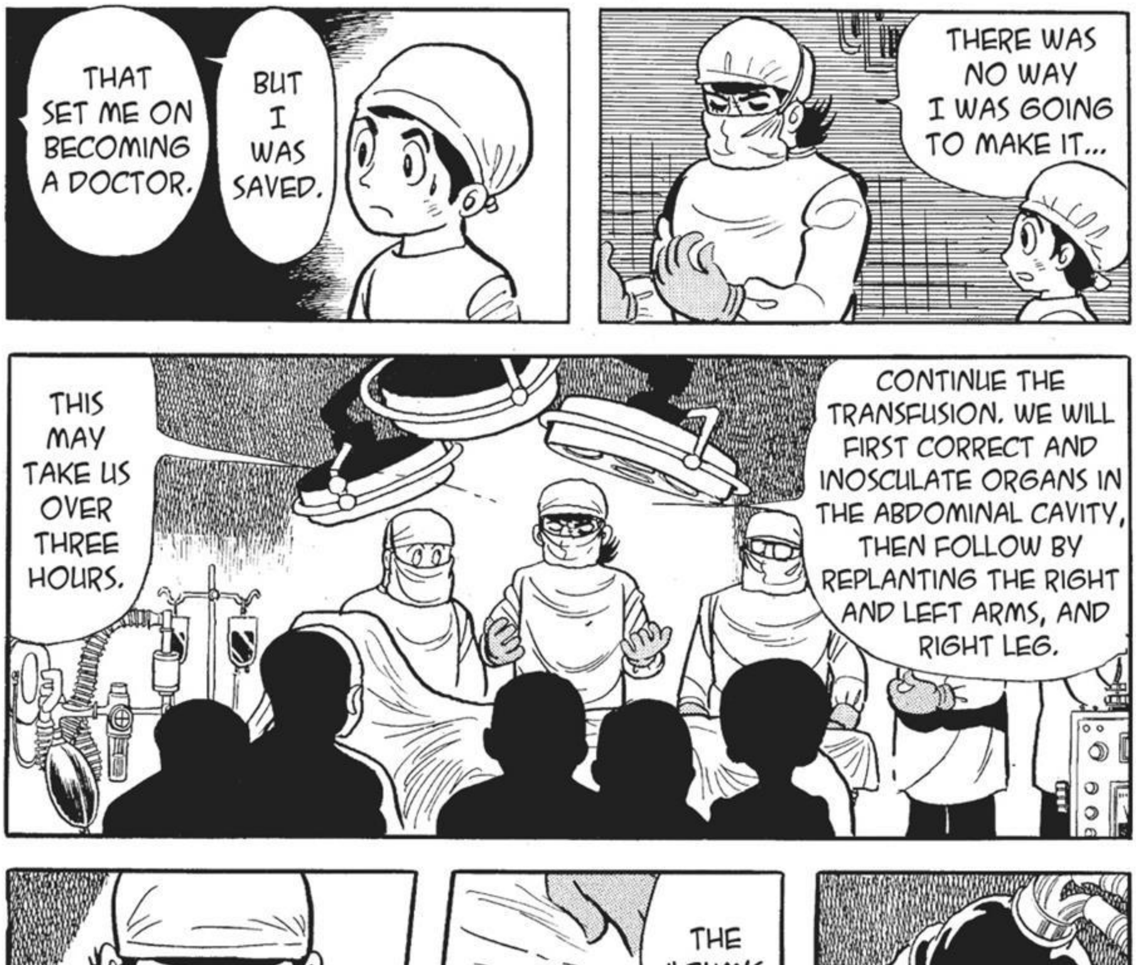

THIS ONE'S CRITICAL, LIMBS BLOWN OFF...
DON'T MOVE HIM! RELAX.
YOU'LL CAUSE AN AIR EMBOLISM.
THAT'S RIGHT, GENTLY... NOW LOOK FOR HIS SEVERED LIMBS.
WOEEE
A SUDDEN GAS EXPLOSION DURING ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN X WARD LEFT DOZENS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED.
A LIST OF THOSE IN CRITICAL CONDITION FOLLOWS. AT THE CENTRAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION HOSPITAL: LABORERS TAKEO FUKUDA, MASAYOSHI OHIRA, YASUHIRO NAKASONE, KIYOMASA KATO...
KIYOMASA KATO??
LABORER, KATO... THAT'S HIM!!
BUT WE JUST PARTED...

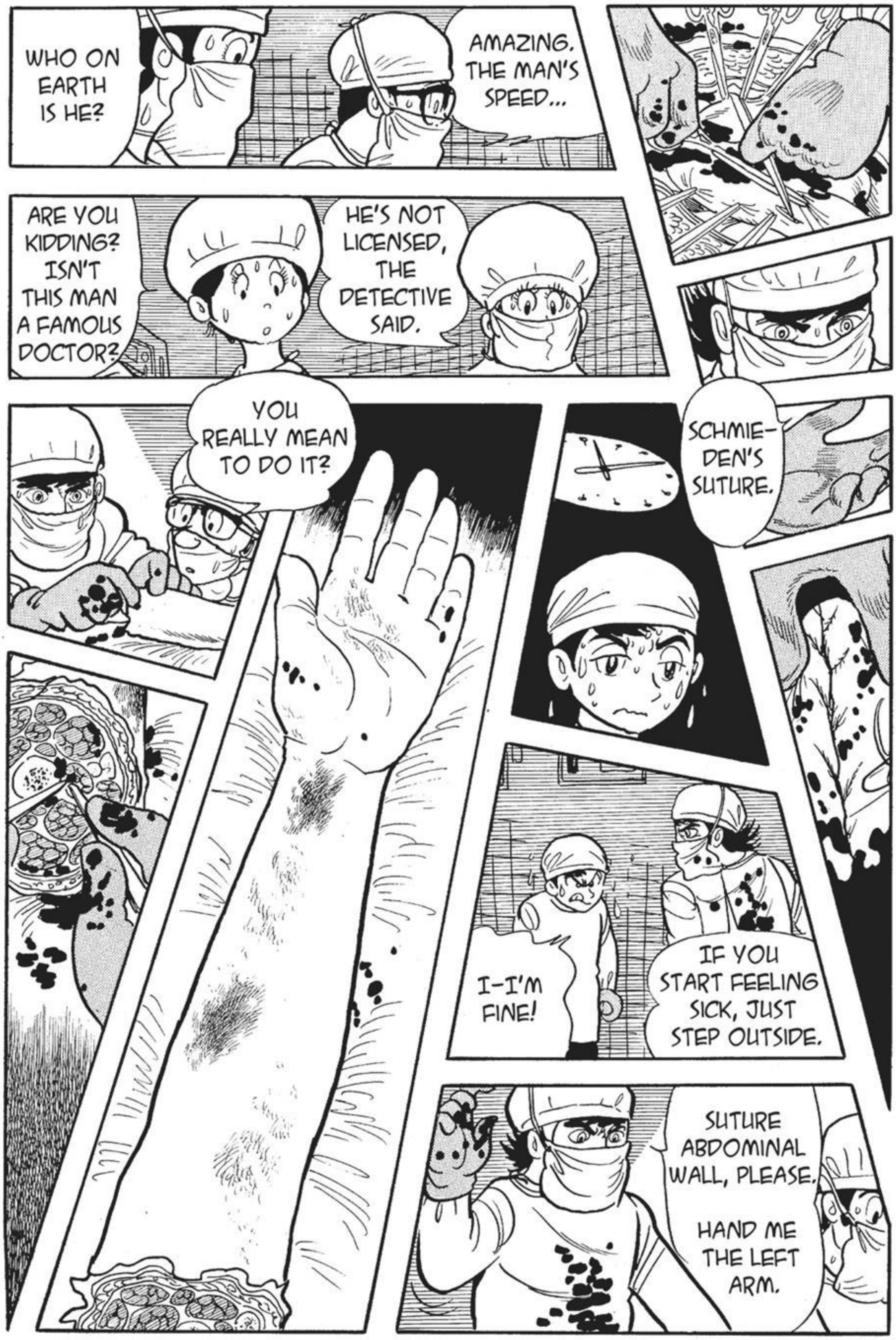
NOTE: FUKUDA, OHIRA, NAKASONE = JAPANESE PRIME MINISTERS OF THE 70S AND 80S

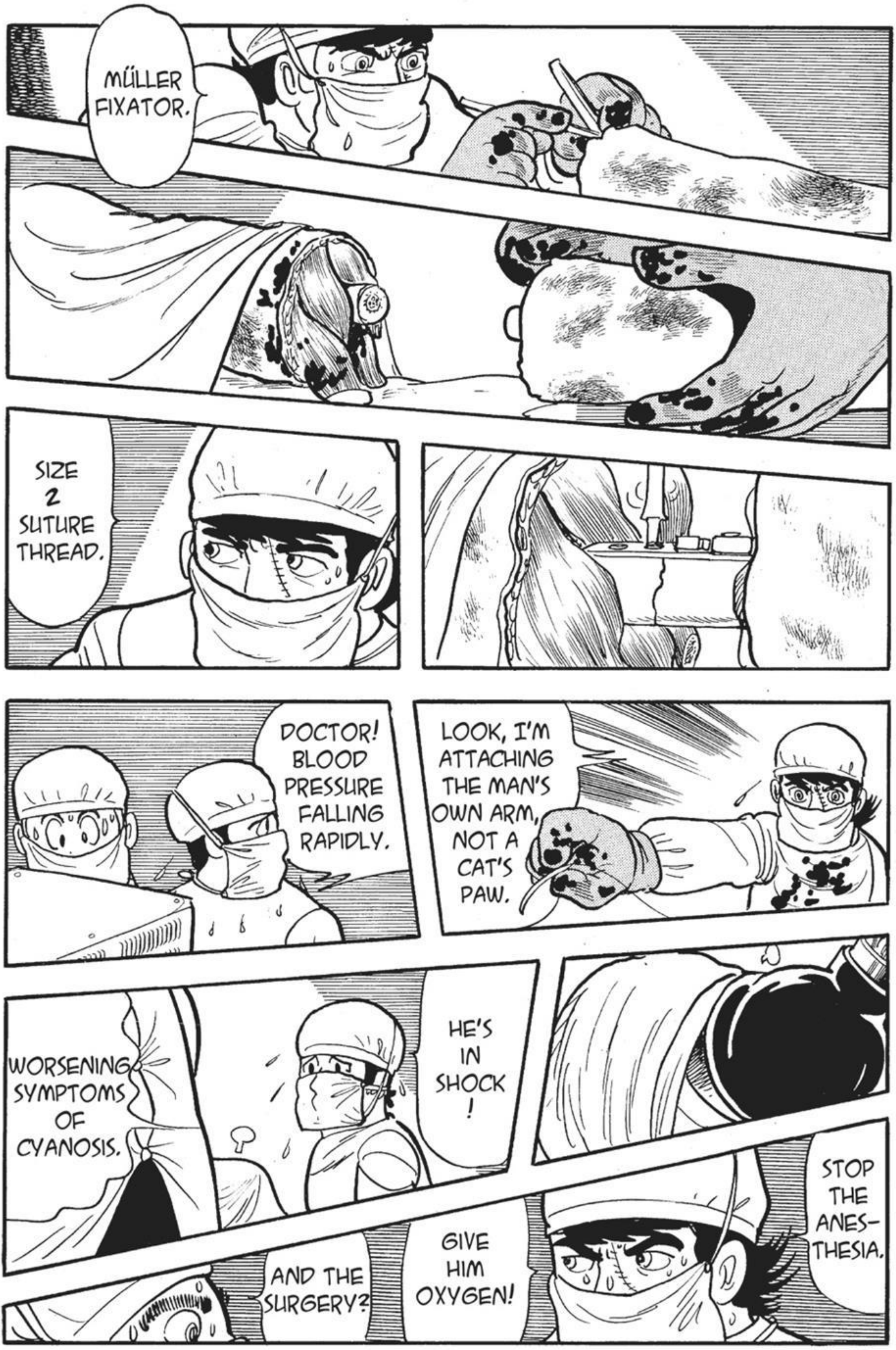

中央労災病院
CENTRAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION HOSPITAL
THE ACCIDENT VICTIM, MR. KATO. IS HE HERE?
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF HIS?
YES... SORT OF.
KATO-SAN!
THIS IS HIM?
WHERE ARE HIS ARMS?
HE LOOKS LIKE A MUMMY!
UHHH UHHH

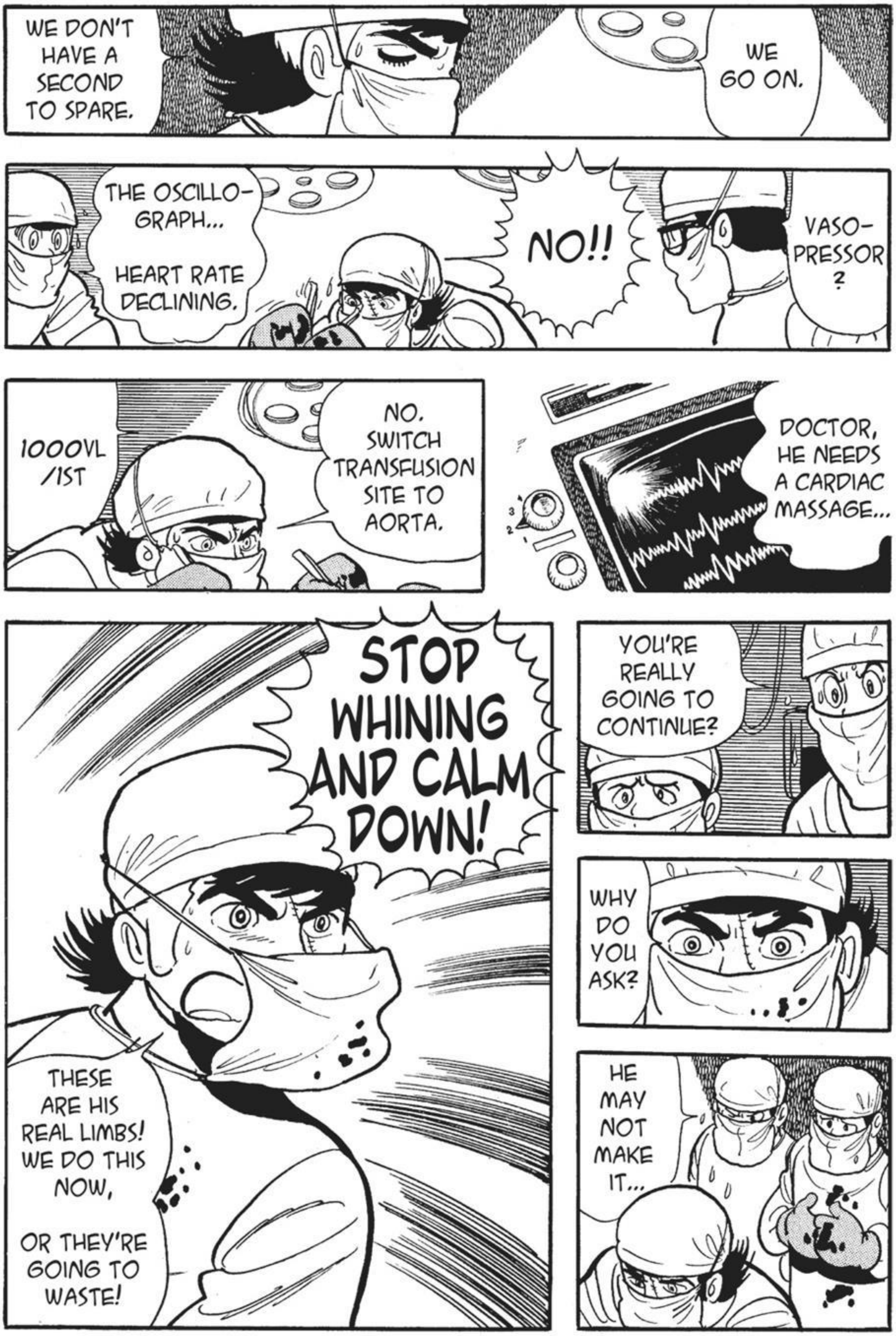

HE WAS ON THE BLAST. IT BLEW OFF HIS ARMS AND ONE LEG, AND A HOLE IN HIS BELLY.
UHHH UHHH
WELL, IT SURE IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.
CAN YOU SAVE HIM?
HAVE YOU EVER CURED A PATIENT THIS BADLY WOUNDED?
WE APPLIED EMERGENCY MEASURES BUT ARE HAVING TO TRIAGE...
POOR MAN...
I'LL DO IT IF YOU'LL DROP THE CHARGES.
FINE! JUST LEND THEM A HAND.
WHEN I'M NOT A REAL DOCTOR?
THEY'RE SHORT ON DOCTORS. IF YOU CAN OPERATE, I'D LIKE YOU TO.
DID THEY FIND HIS LIMBS?
HMPH, THESE?
LET'S SEW THEM BACK ON.
WHAT?!

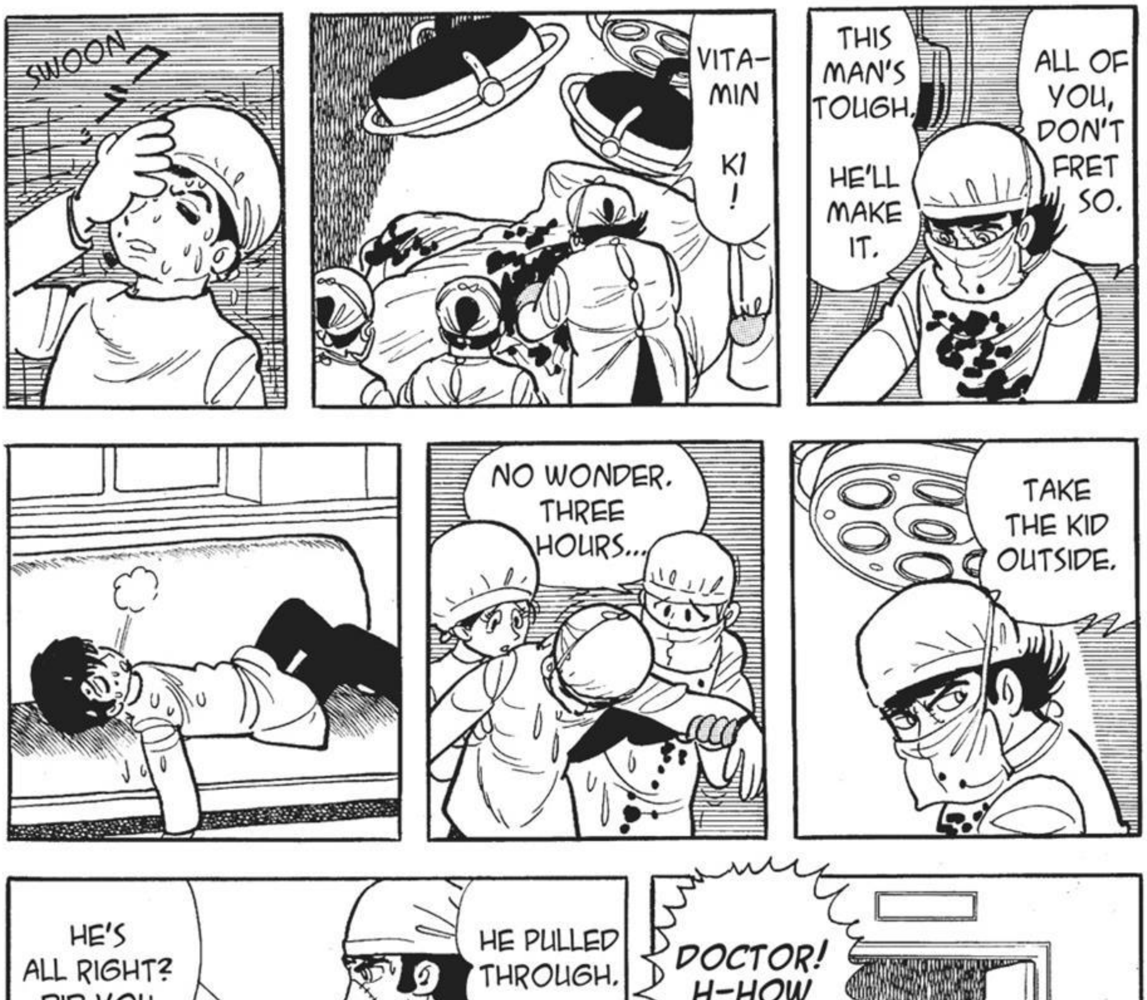

HEH HEH. NORMALLY I'D CHARGE 30 OR 40 MILLION YEN...
DON'T BE ABSURD!
BUT IF THEY'RE DROPPING CHARGES, THAT'S PRICELESS.
IS HE INSANE? WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A DOLL...
WHAT IS IT, SON?
I'D... LIKE TO WATCH...
THIS ONE ISN'T PUBLIC!
I MEAN TO PRACTICE ONE DAY...
FINE BY ME. THE SEVERITY OF A LIFE IN THE BALANCE OUGHT TO TEACH HIM A LESSON.
LISTEN, KID... WHEN I WAS EVEN YOUNGER THAN YOU ARE, AN ACCIDENT LEFT ME IN PIECES, TOO.

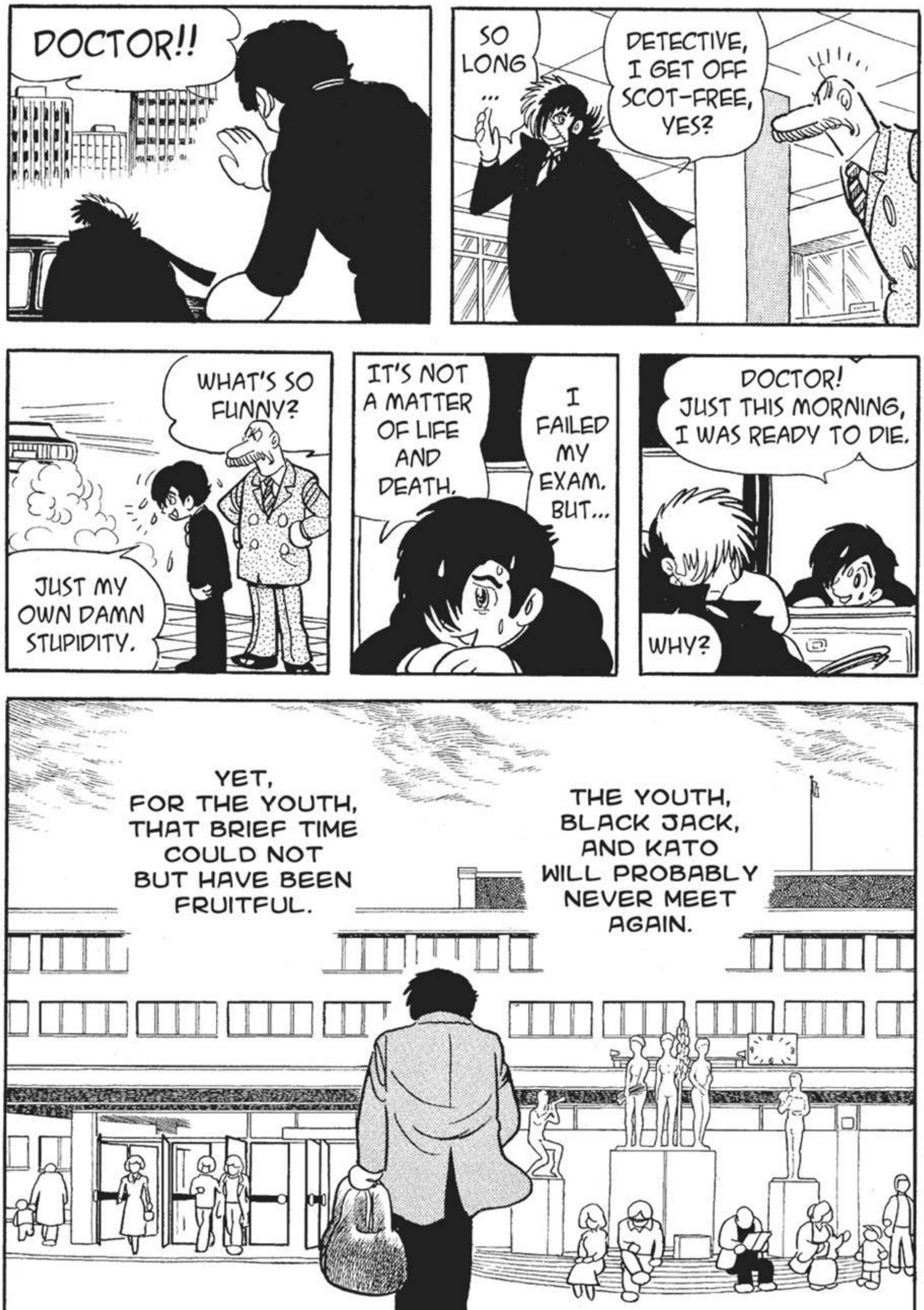

THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS GOING TO MAKE IT...
BUT I WAS SAVED.
THAT SET ME ON BECOMING A DOCTOR.
CONTINUE THE TRANSFUSION. WE WILL FIRST CORRECT AND INOSCULATE ORGANS IN THE ABDOMINAL CAVITY, THEN FOLLOW BY REPLANTING THE RIGHT AND LEFT ARMS, AND RIGHT LEG.
THIS MAY TAKE US OVER THREE HOURS.
THE ILEUM'S A REAL MESS.
INTESTINAL FORCEPS
CLENCH


WHO ON EARTH IS HE?
AMAZING. THE MAN'S SPEED...
ARE YOU KIDDING? ISN'T THIS MAN A FAMOUS DOCTOR?
HE'S NOT LICENSED, THE DETECTIVE SAID.
YOU REALLY MEAN TO DO IT?
SCHMIEDEN'S SUTURE.
IF YOU START FEELING SICK, JUST STEP OUTSIDE.
I-I'M FINE!
SUTURE ABDOMINAL WALL, PLEASE.
HAND ME THE LEFT ARM.

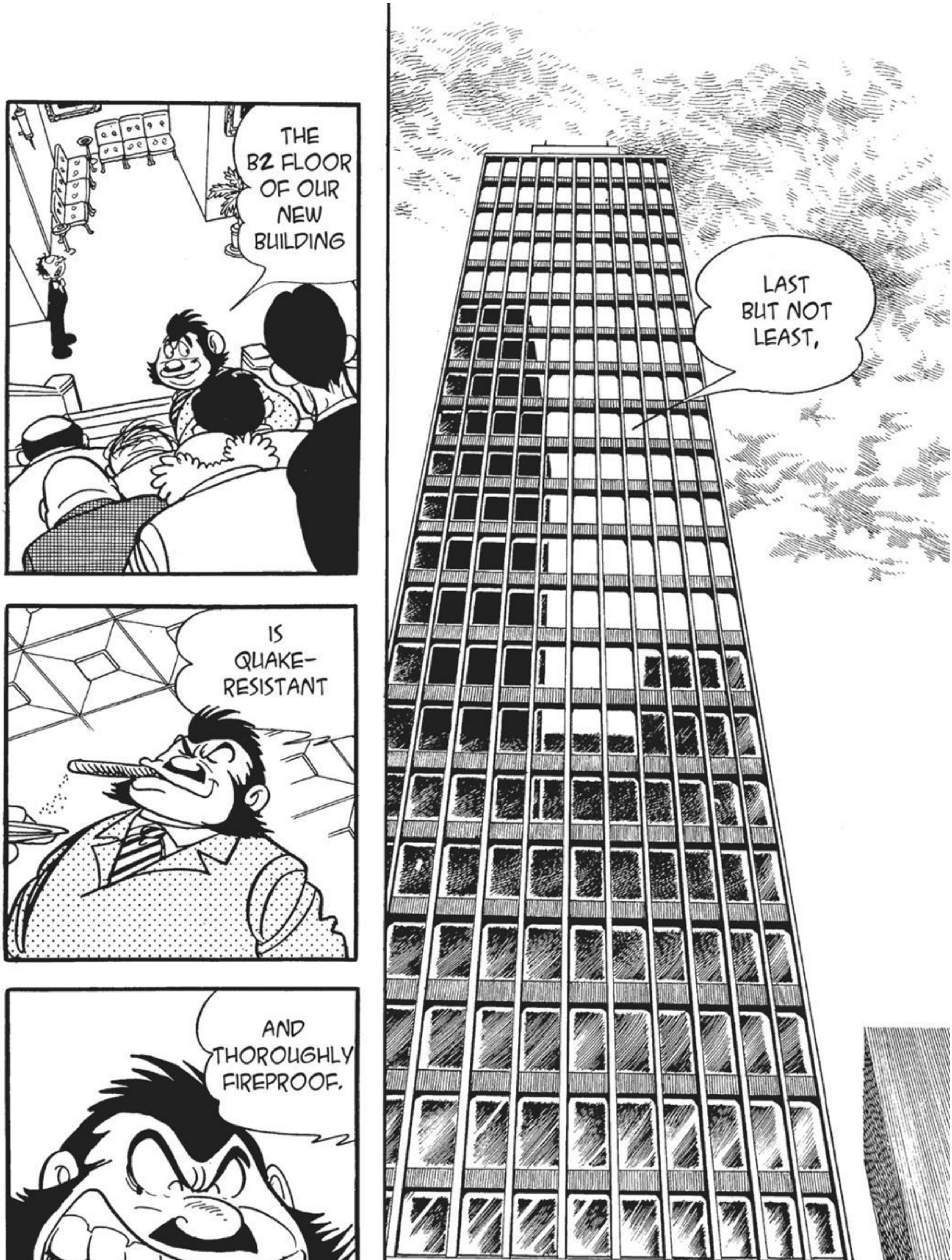

MÜLLER FIXATOR.
SIZE 2 SUTURE THREAD.
DOCTOR! BLOOD PRESSURE FALLING RAPIDLY.
LOOK, I'M ATTACHING THE MAN'S OWN ARM, NOT A CAT'S PAW.
WORSENING SYMPTOMS OF CYANOSIS.
HE'S IN SHOCK!
STOP THE ANES-THESIA.
GIVE HIM OXYGEN!
AND THE SURGERY?

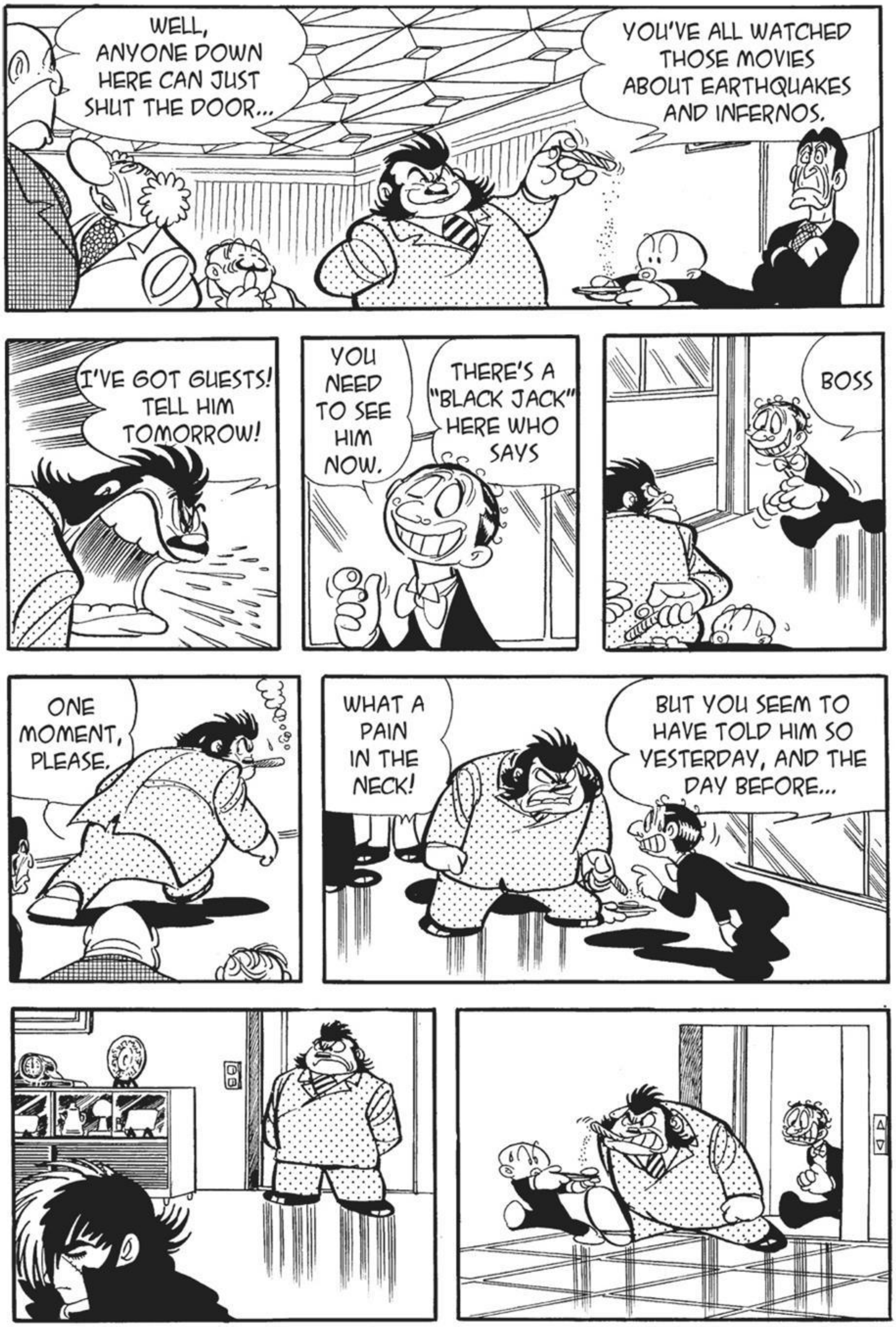

WE DON'T HAVE A SECOND TO SPARE.
WE GO ON.
THE OSCILLO-GRAPH... HEART RATE DECLINING.
NO!!
VASO-PRESSOR?
1000VL /1ST
NO. SWITCH TRANSFUSION SITE TO AORTA.
DOCTOR, HE NEEDS A CARDIAC MASSAGE...
STOP WHINING AND CALM DOWN!
THESE ARE HIS REAL LIMBS! WE DO THIS NOW, OR THEY'RE GOING TO WASTE!
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO CONTINUE?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
HE MAY NOT MAKE IT...

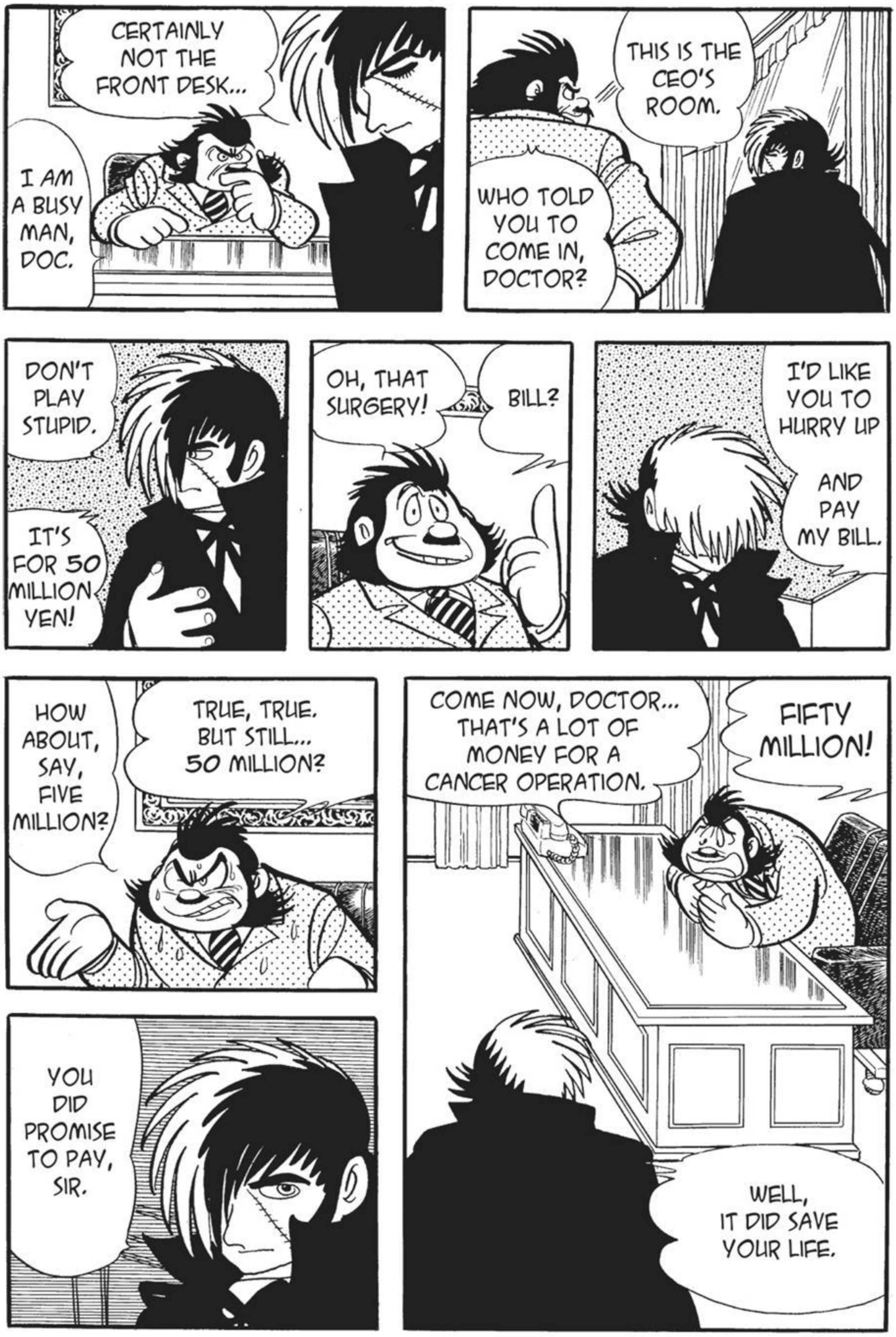

ALL OF YOU, DON'T FRET SO.
THIS MAN'S TOUGH. HE'LL MAKE IT.
VITAMIN K1!
SWOON
TAKE THE KID OUTSIDE.
NO WONDER. THREE HOURS...
DOCTOR! H-HOW IS HE?
HE PULLED THROUGH.
HE'S ALL RIGHT? DID YOU SAVE HIS LIMBS?
I THINK SO.
WOW...

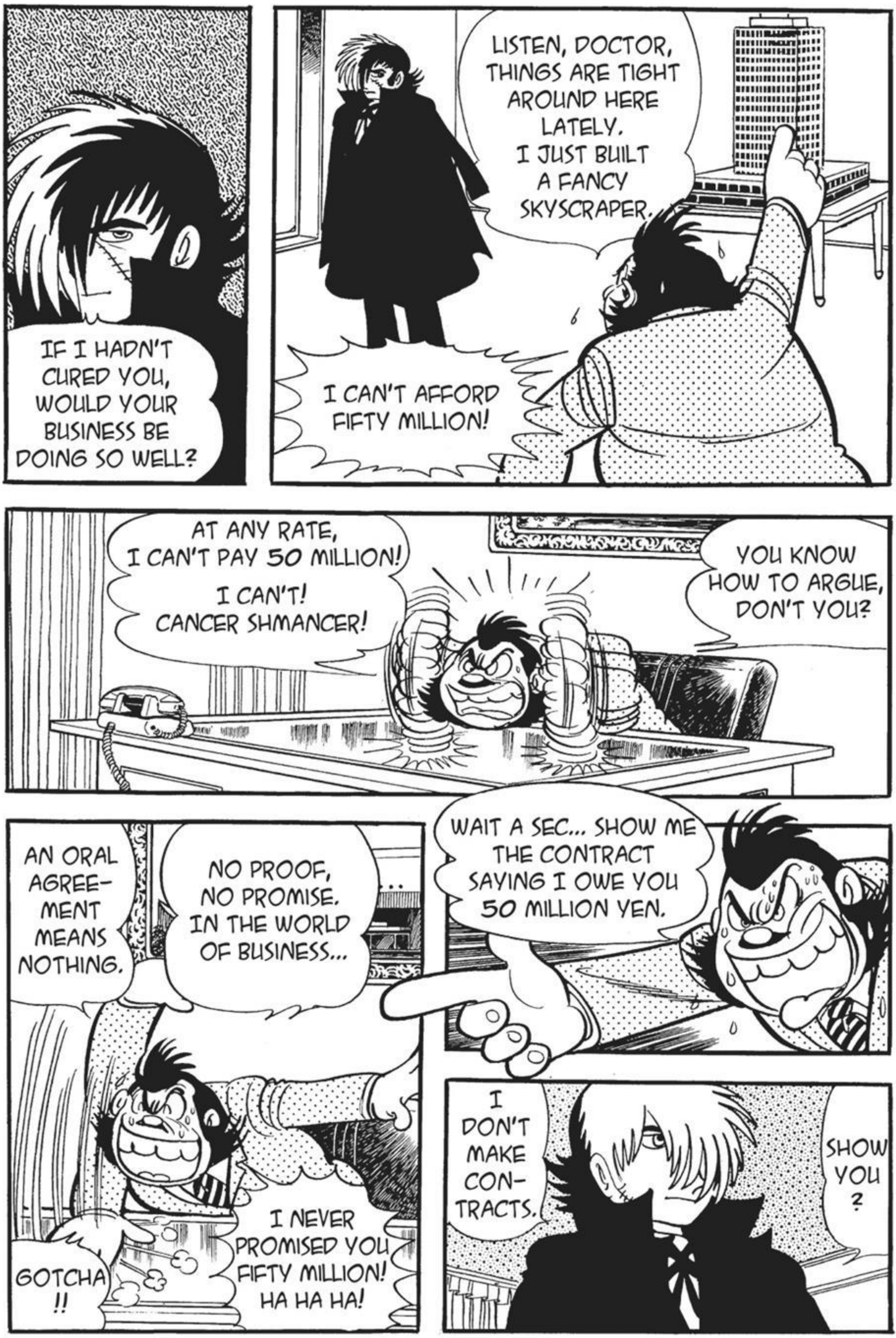

DETECTIVE, I GET OFF SCOT-FREE, YES?
SO LONG ...
DOCTOR!!
DOCTOR! JUST THIS MORNING, I WAS READY TO DIE.
WHY?
I FAILED MY EXAM. BUT...
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH.
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
JUST MY OWN DAMN STUPIDITY.
THE YOUTH, BLACK JACK, AND KATO WILL PROBABLY NEVER MEET AGAIN.
YET, FOR THE YOUTH, THAT BRIEF TIME COULD NOT BUT HAVE BEEN FRUITFUL.

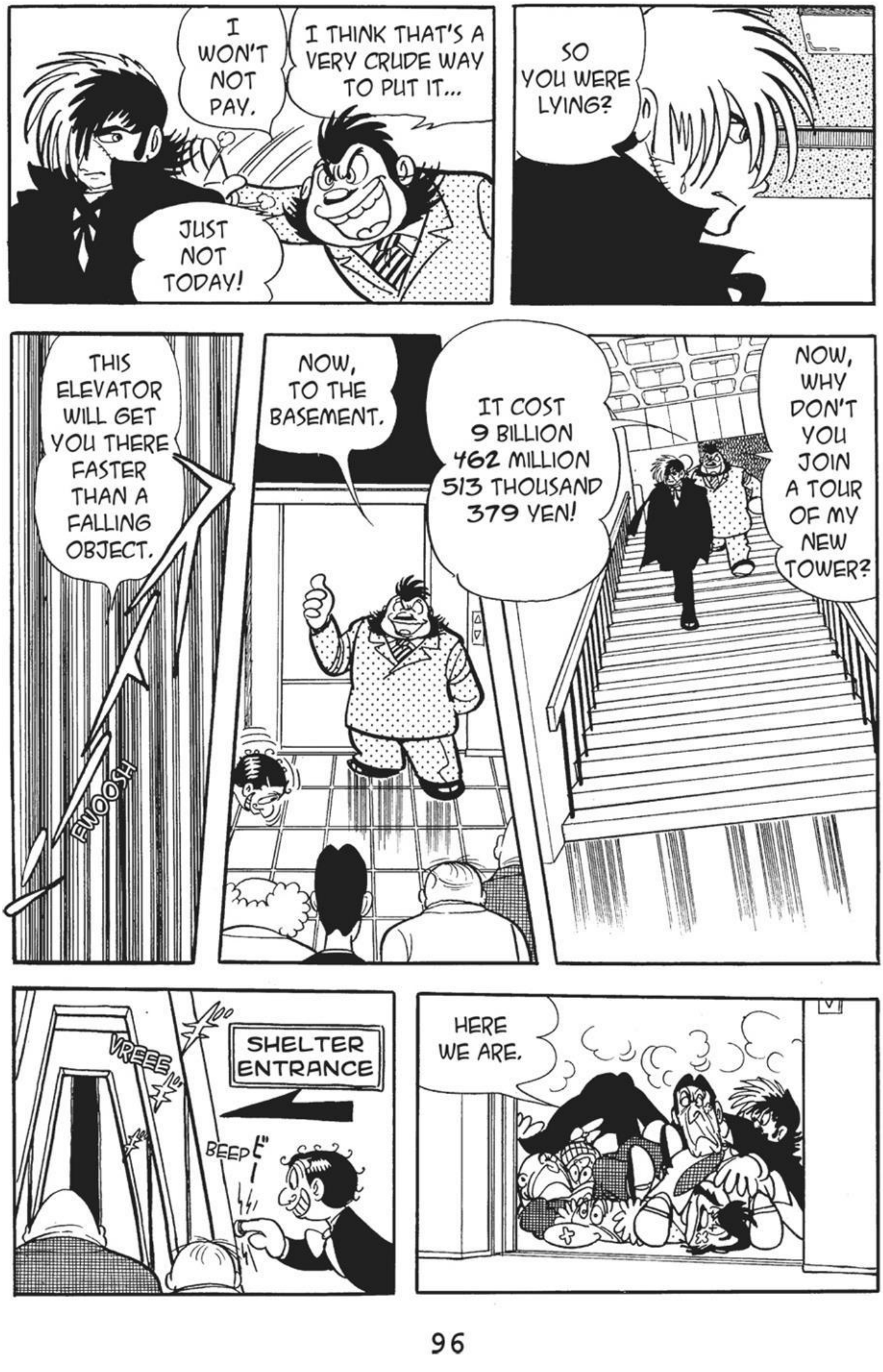
EMERGENCY SHELTER

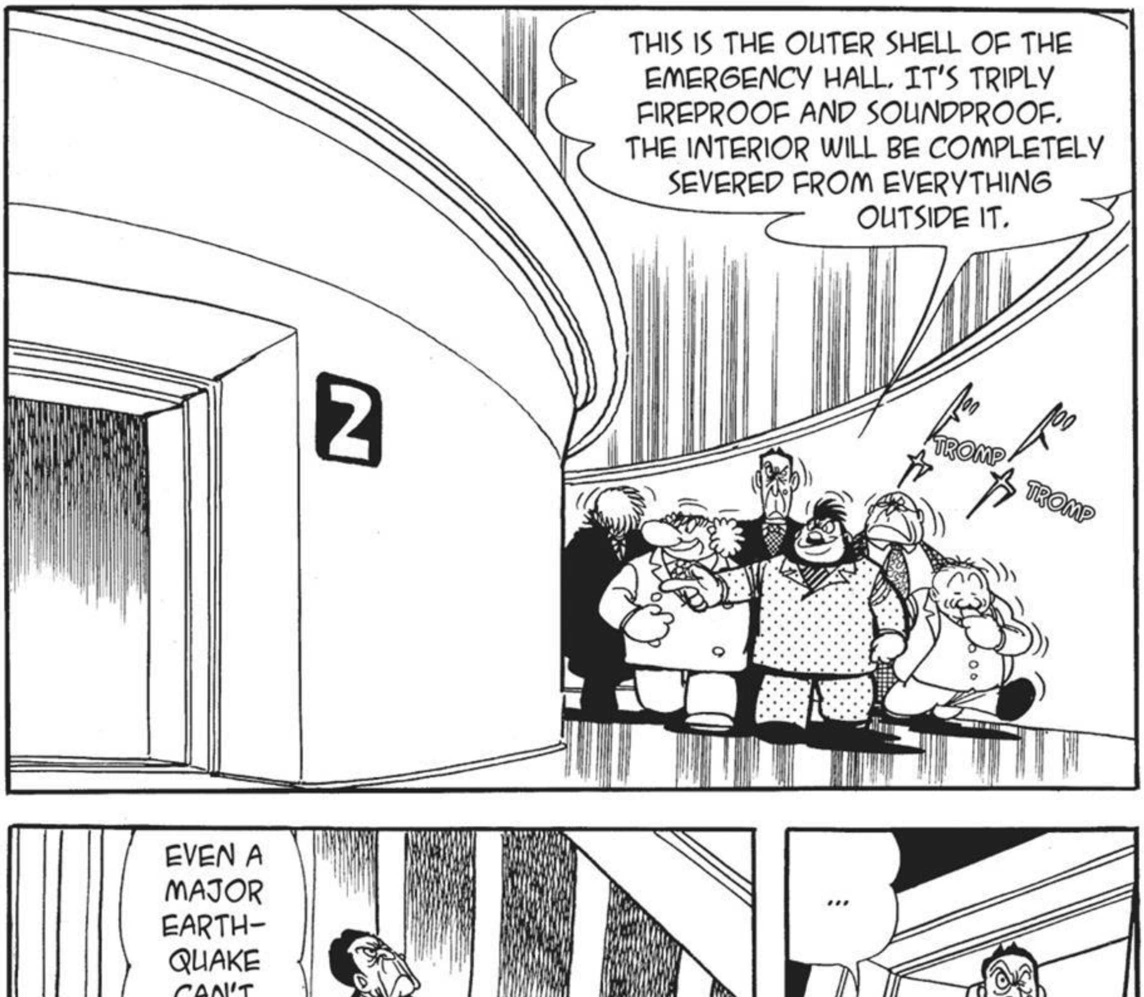

LAST BUT NOT LEAST,
THE B2 FLOOR OF OUR NEW BUILDING
IS QUAKE-RESISTANT
AND THOROUGHLY FIREPROOF.

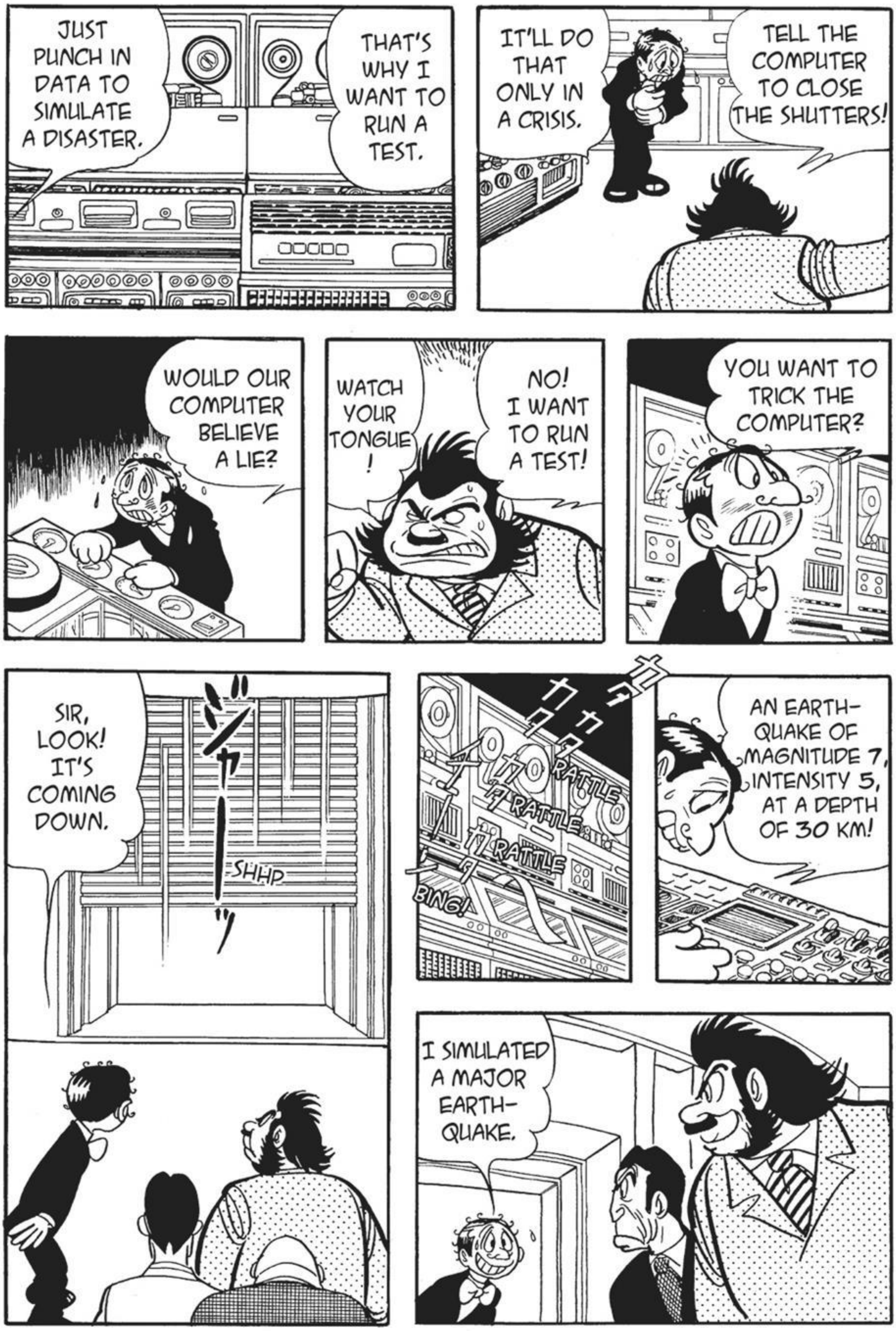

YOU'VE ALL WATCHED THOSE MOVIES ABOUT EARTHQUAKES AND INFERNOS.
WELL, ANYONE DOWN HERE CAN JUST SHUT THE DOOR...
BOSS
THERE'S A "BLACK JACK" HERE WHO SAYS
YOU NEED TO SEE HIM NOW.
I'VE GOT GUESTS! TELL HIM TOMORROW!
BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE TOLD HIM SO YESTERDAY, AND THE DAY BEFORE...
WHAT A PAIN IN THE NECK!
ONE MOMENT, PLEASE.

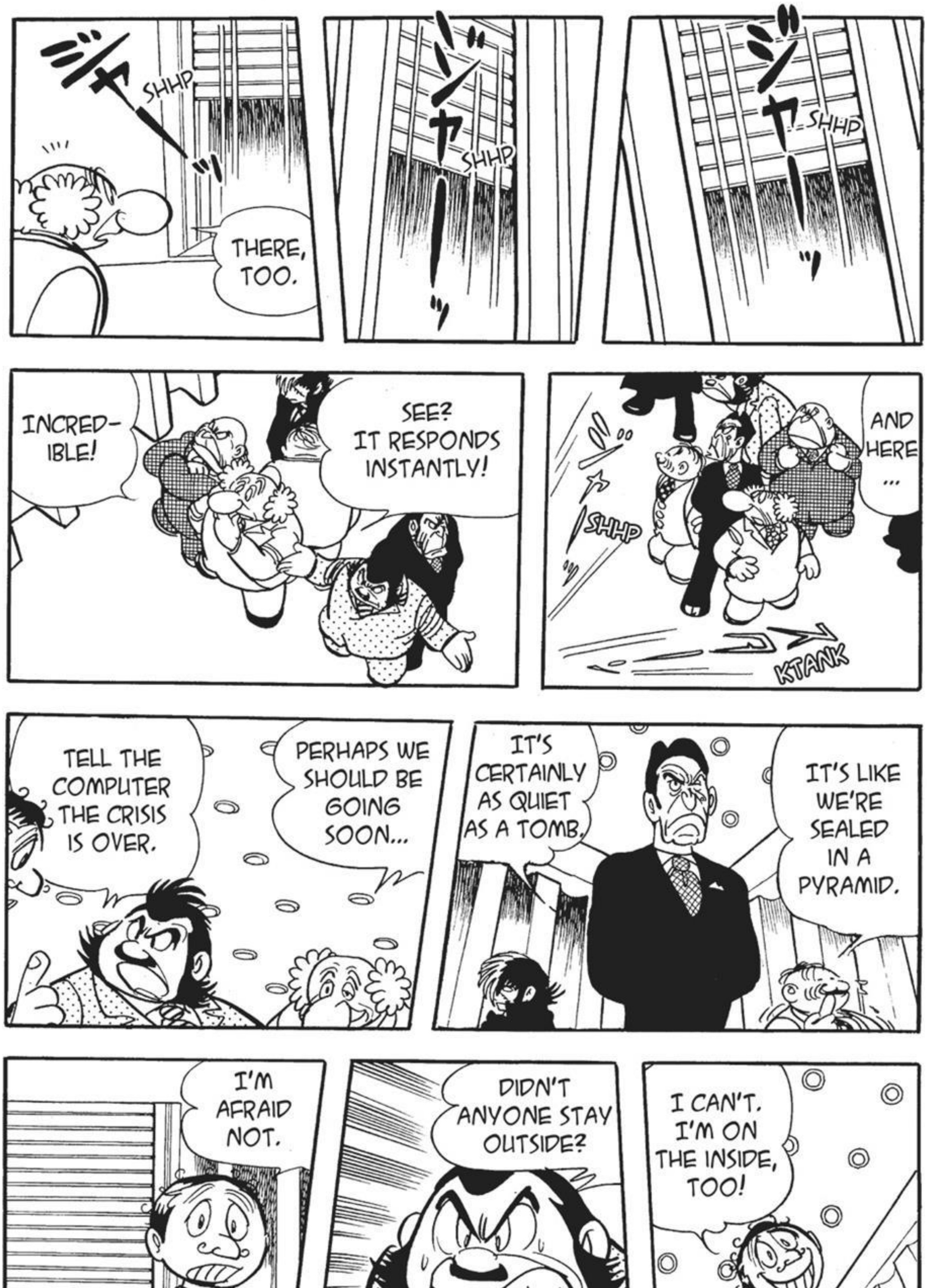

THIS IS THE CEO'S ROOM.
WHO TOLD YOU TO COME IN, DOCTOR?
CERTAINLY NOT THE FRONT DESK...
I AM A BUSY MAN, DOC.
I'D LIKE YOU TO HURRY UP
AND PAY MY BILL.
BILL?
OH, THAT SURGERY!
DON'T PLAY STUPID.
IT'S FOR 50 MILLION YEN!
FIFTY MILLION!
COME NOW, DOCTOR... THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY FOR A CANCER OPERATION.
WELL, IT DID SAVE YOUR LIFE.
TRUE, TRUE. BUT STILL... 50 MILLION?
HOW ABOUT, SAY, FIVE MILLION?
YOU DID PROMISE TO PAY, SIR.

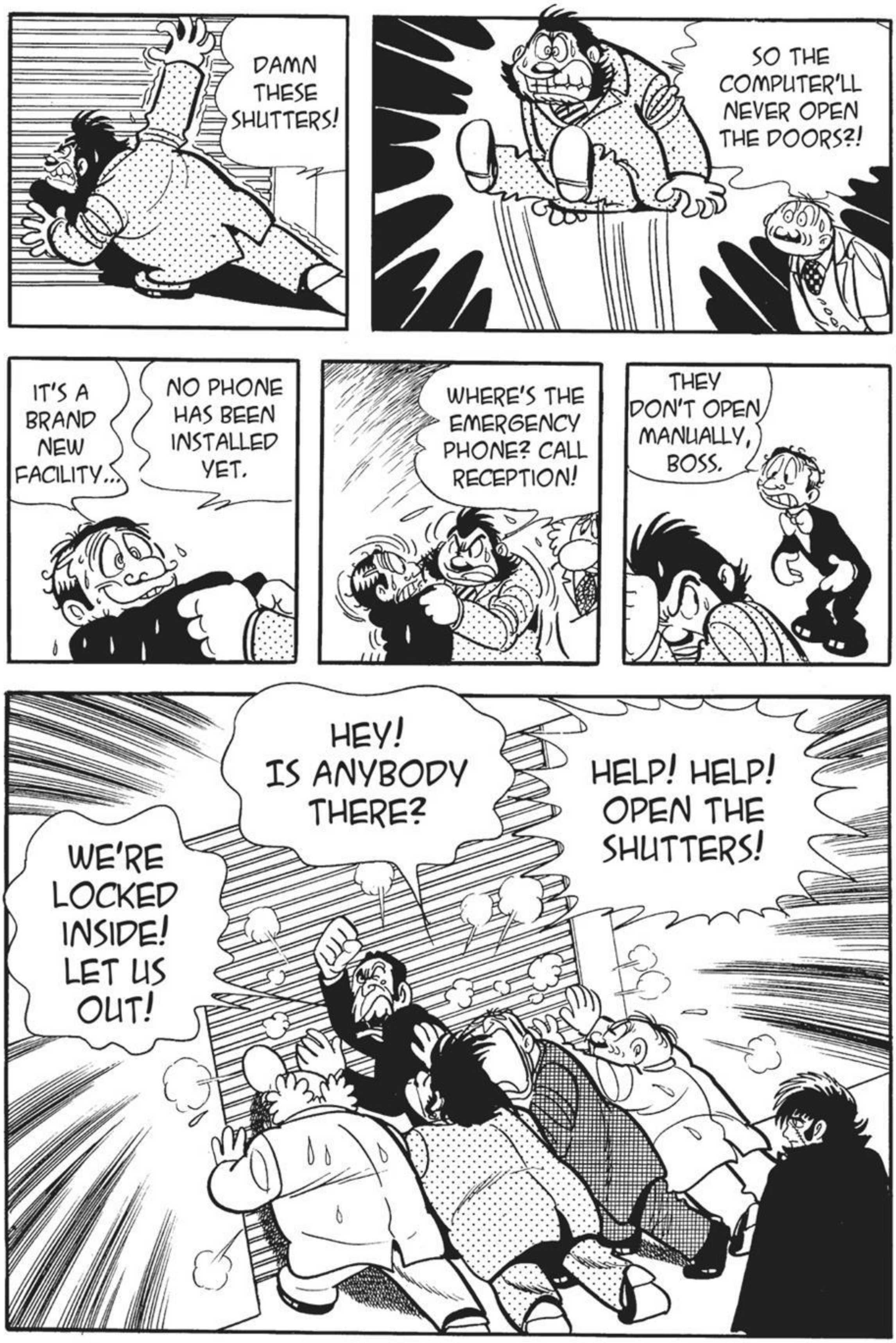

LISTEN, DOCTOR, THINGS ARE TIGHT AROUND HERE LATELY. I JUST BUILT A FANCY SKYSCRAPER.
I CAN'T AFFORD FIFTY MILLION!
IF I HADN'T CURED YOU, WOULD YOUR BUSINESS BE DOING SO WELL?
YOU KNOW HOW TO ARGUE, DON'T YOU?
AT ANY RATE, I CAN'T PAY 50 MILLION!
I CAN'T! CANCER SHMANCER!
WAIT A SEC... SHOW ME THE CONTRACT SAYING I OWE YOU 50 MILLION YEN.
SHOW YOU?
I DON'T MAKE CONTRACTS.
NO PROOF, NO PROMISE. IN THE WORLD OF BUSINESS...
AN ORAL AGREEMENT MEANS NOTHING.
I NEVER PROMISED YOU FIFTY MILLION! HA HA HA!
GOTCHA!!

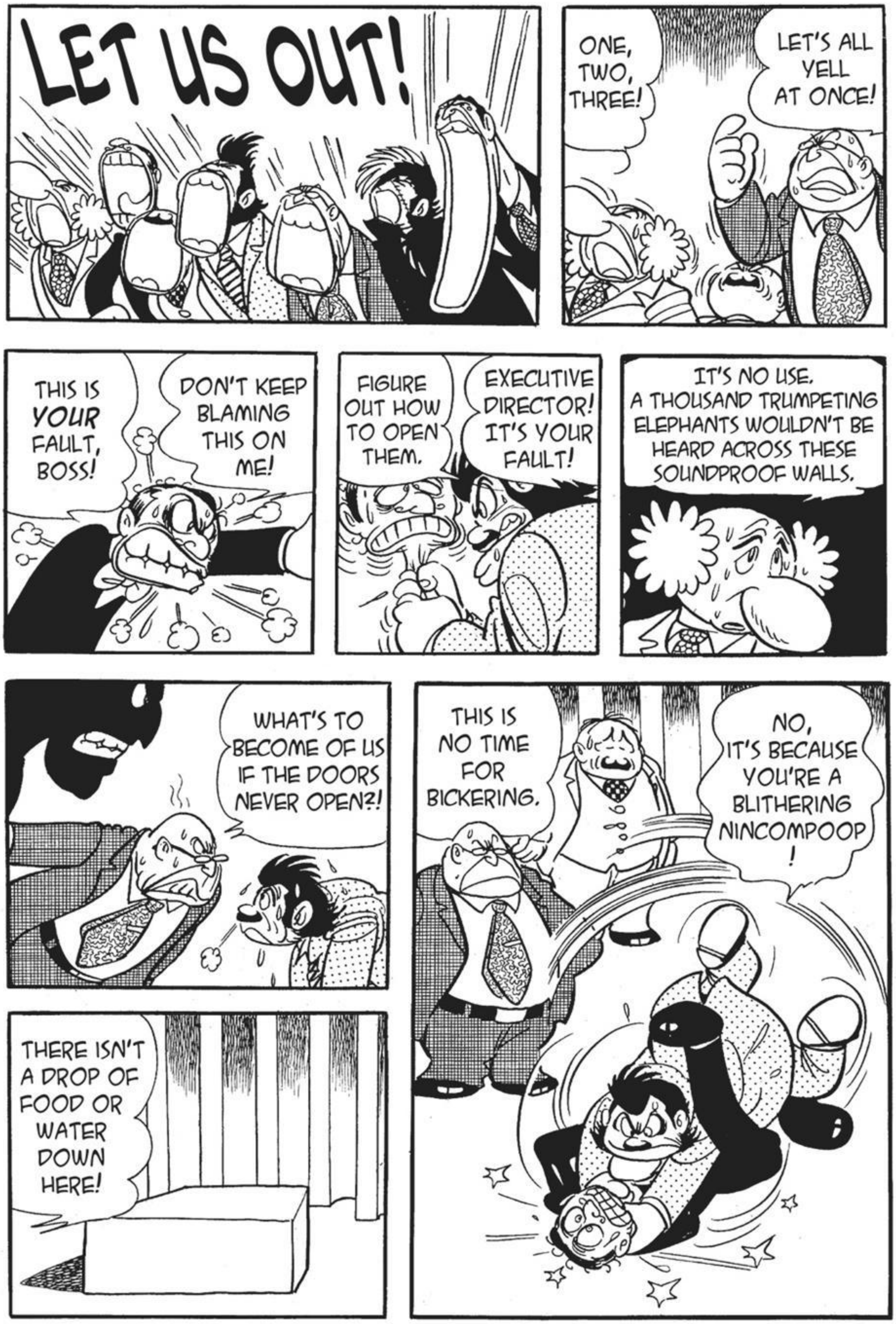

I THINK THAT'S A VERY CRUDE WAY TO PUT IT...
I WON'T NOT PAY.
JUST NOT TODAY!
SO YOU WERE LYING?
THIS ELEVATOR WILL GET YOU THERE FASTER THAN A FALLING OBJECT.
FWOOSH
NOW, TO THE BASEMENT.
IT COST 9 BILLION 462 MILLION 513 THOUSAND 379 YEN!
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU JOIN A TOUR OF MY NEW TOWER?
VREEE
SHELTER ENTRANCE
BEEP ビ
HERE WE ARE.

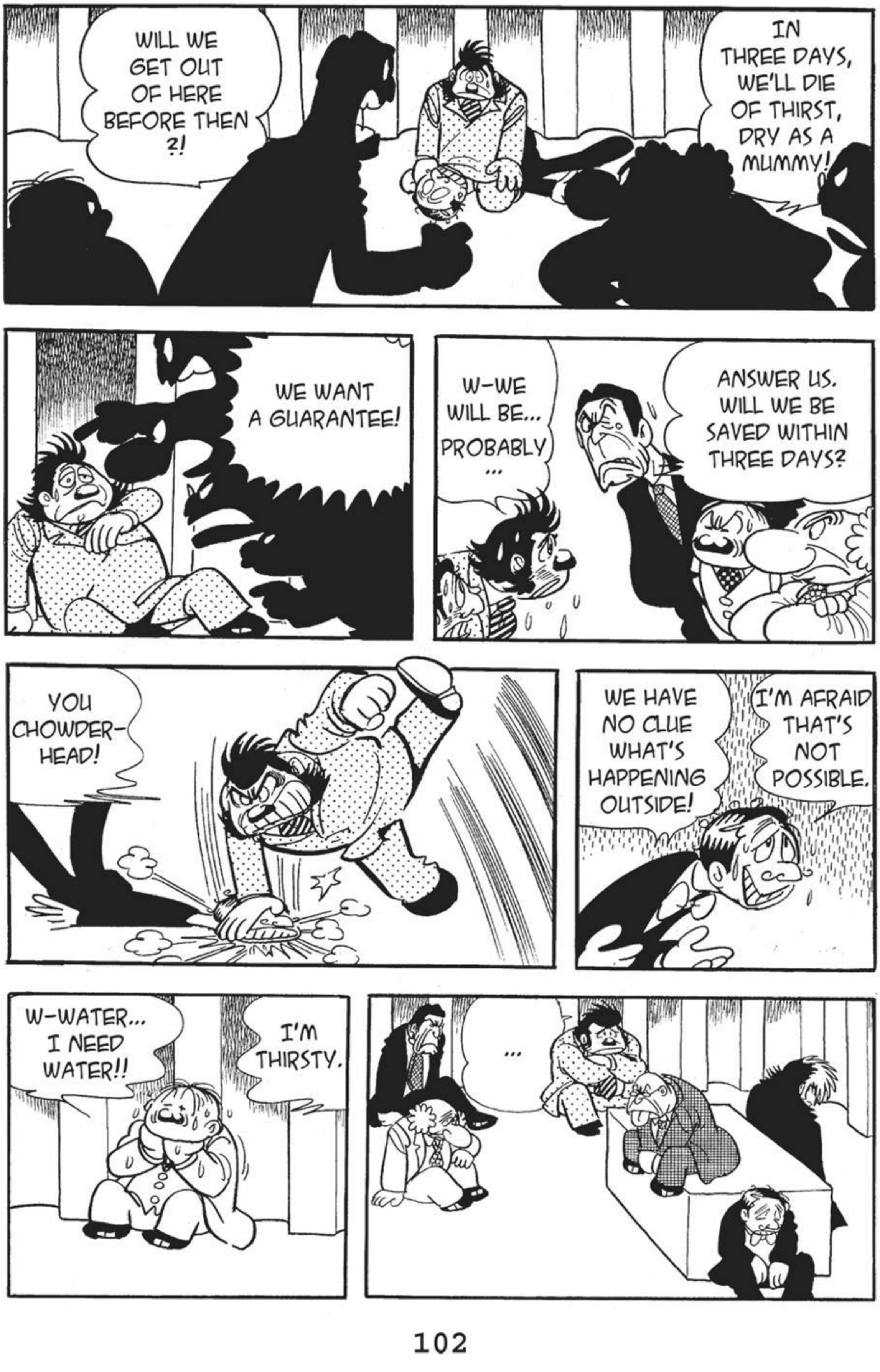

THIS IS THE OUTER SHELL OF THE EMERGENCY HALL. IT'S TRIPLY FIREPROOF AND SOUNDPROOF. THE INTERIOR WILL BE COMPLETELY SEVERED FROM EVERYTHING OUTSIDE IT.
2
TROMP
TROMP
EVEN A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE CAN'T TOUCH YOU IN HERE.
A CABLE BEHIND THIS WALL
CONNECTS TO A COMPUTER THAT OPERATES THE SHUTTERS.
...
IT'S RATHER AUSTERE...

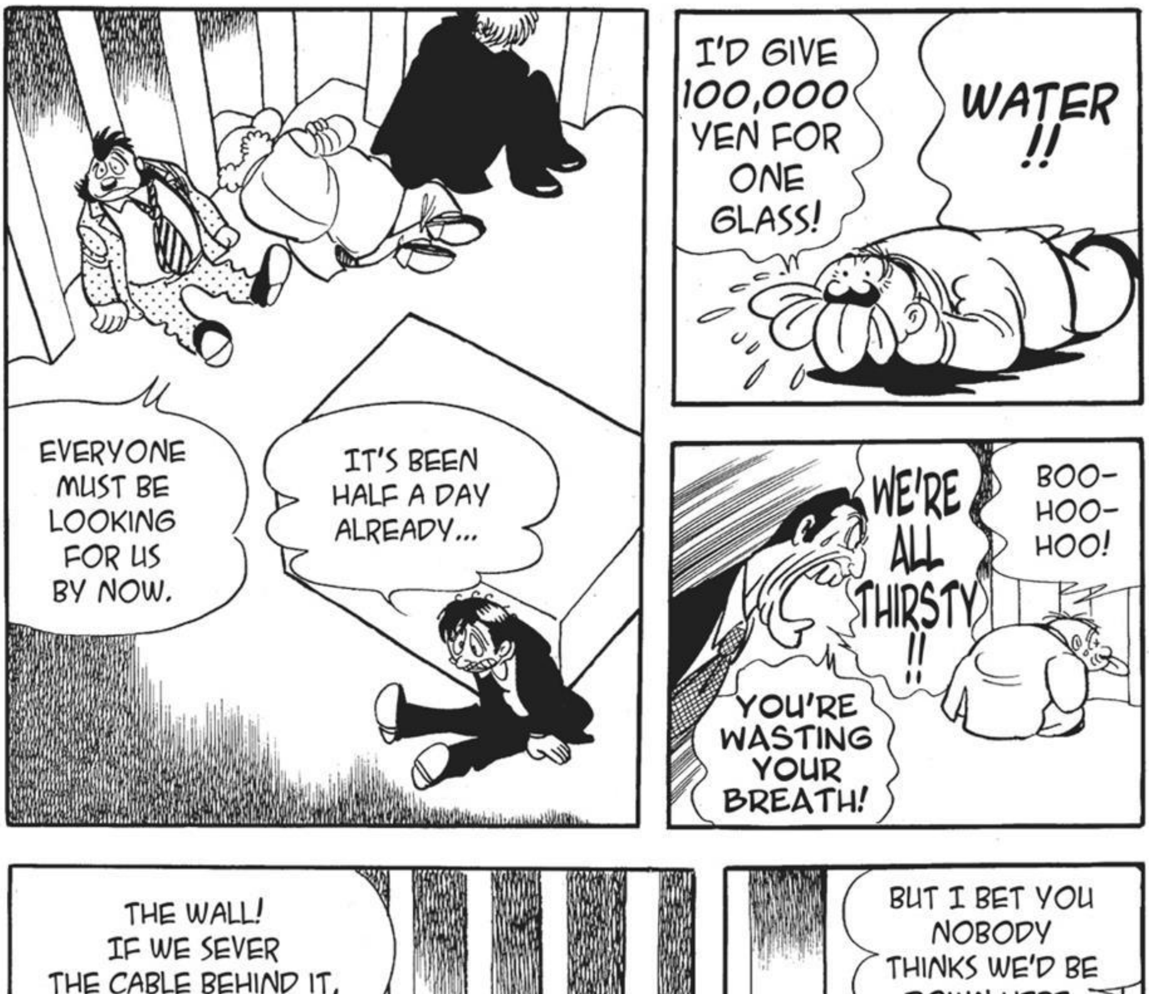

JUST PUNCH IN DATA TO SIMULATE A DISASTER.
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO RUN A TEST.
IT'LL DO THAT ONLY IN A CRISIS.
TELL THE COMPUTER TO CLOSE THE SHUTTERS!
WOULD OUR COMPUTER BELIEVE A LIE?
WATCH YOUR TONGUE!
NO! I WANT TO RUN A TEST!
YOU WANT TO TRICK THE COMPUTER?
SIR, LOOK! IT'S COMING DOWN.
ジャーッ
SHHP
カタカタ
RATTLE
カタカタ
RATTLE
カタカタ
RATTLE
チーン
BING!
AN EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 7, INTENSITY 5, AT A DEPTH OF 30 KM!
I SIMULATED A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE.

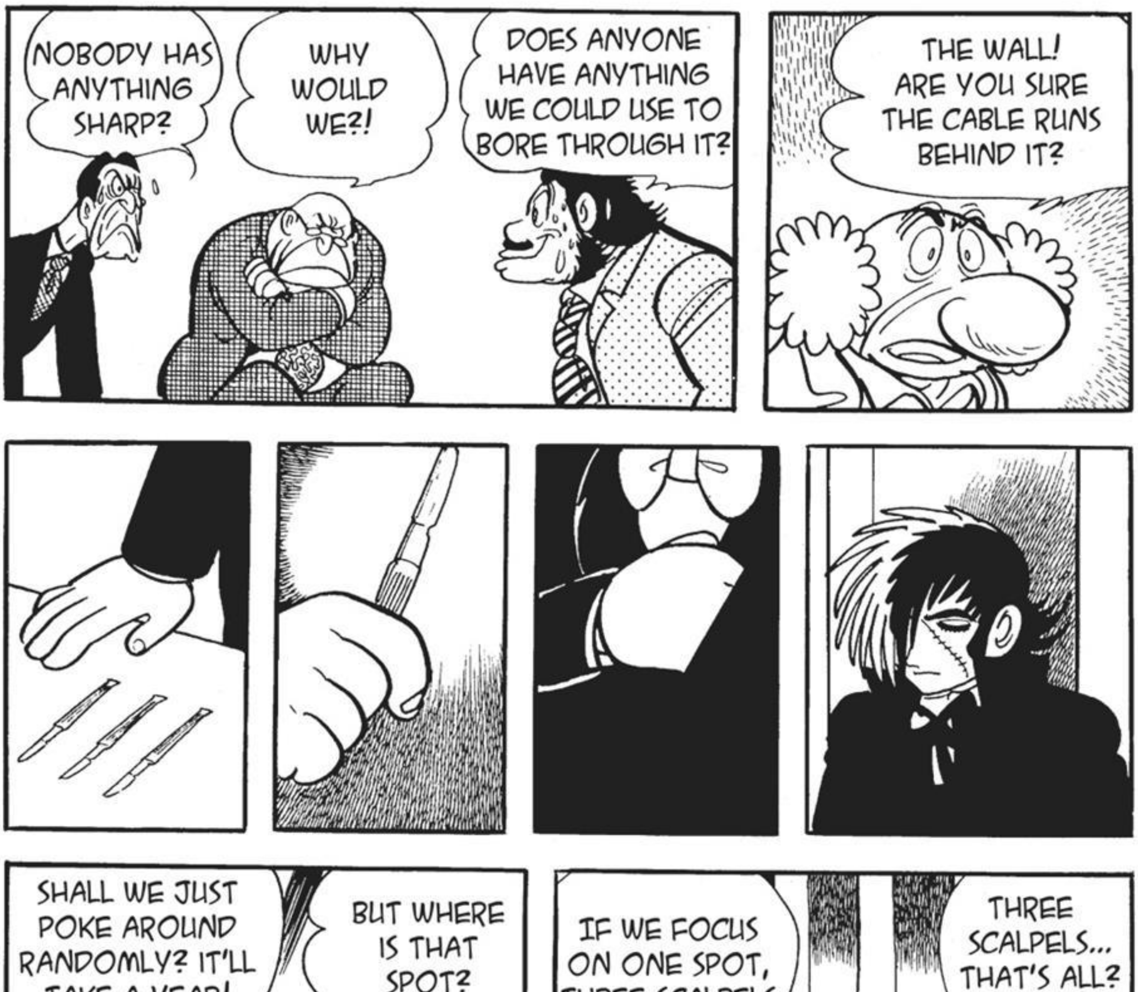

ジャーッ
SHHP
ジャーッ
SHHP
ジャーッ
SHHP
THERE, TOO.
SHHP
AND HERE...
KTANK
SEE? IT RESPONDS INSTANTLY!
INCREDIBLE!
IT'S LIKE WE'RE SEALED IN A PYRAMID.
IT'S CERTAINLY AS QUIET AS A TOMB.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE GOING SOON...
TELL THE COMPUTER THE CRISIS IS OVER.
I CAN'T. I'M ON THE INSIDE, TOO!
DIDN'T ANYONE STAY OUTSIDE?
I'M AFRAID NOT.

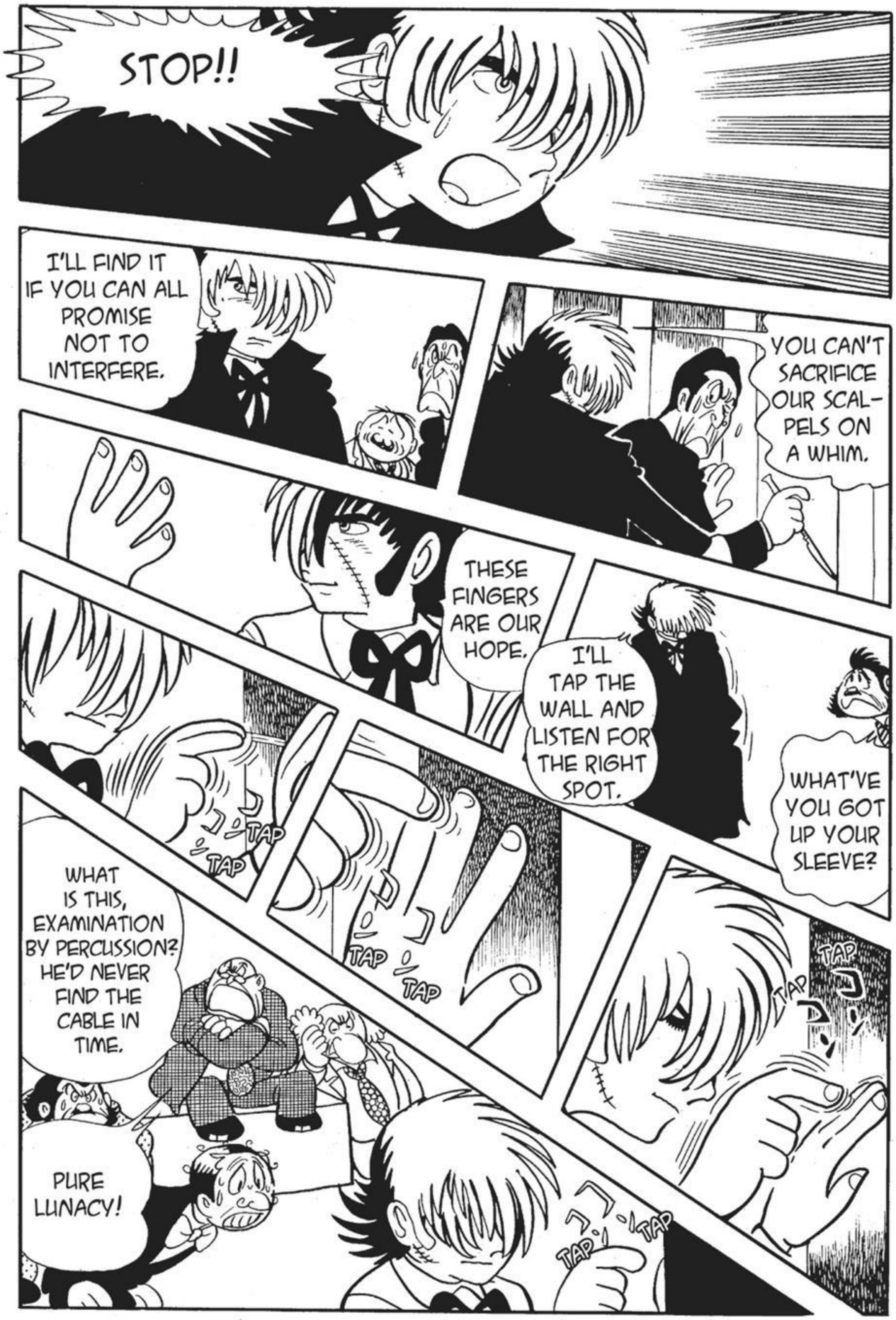

DAMN THESE SHUTTERS!
SO THE COMPUTER'LL NEVER OPEN THE DOORS?!
IT'S A BRAND NEW FACILITY...
NO PHONE HAS BEEN INSTALLED YET.
WHERE'S THE EMERGENCY PHONE? CALL RECEPTION!
THEY DON'T OPEN MANUALLY, BOSS.
HEY! IS ANYBODY THERE?
HELP! HELP! OPEN THE SHUTTERS!
WE'RE LOCKED INSIDE! LET US OUT!

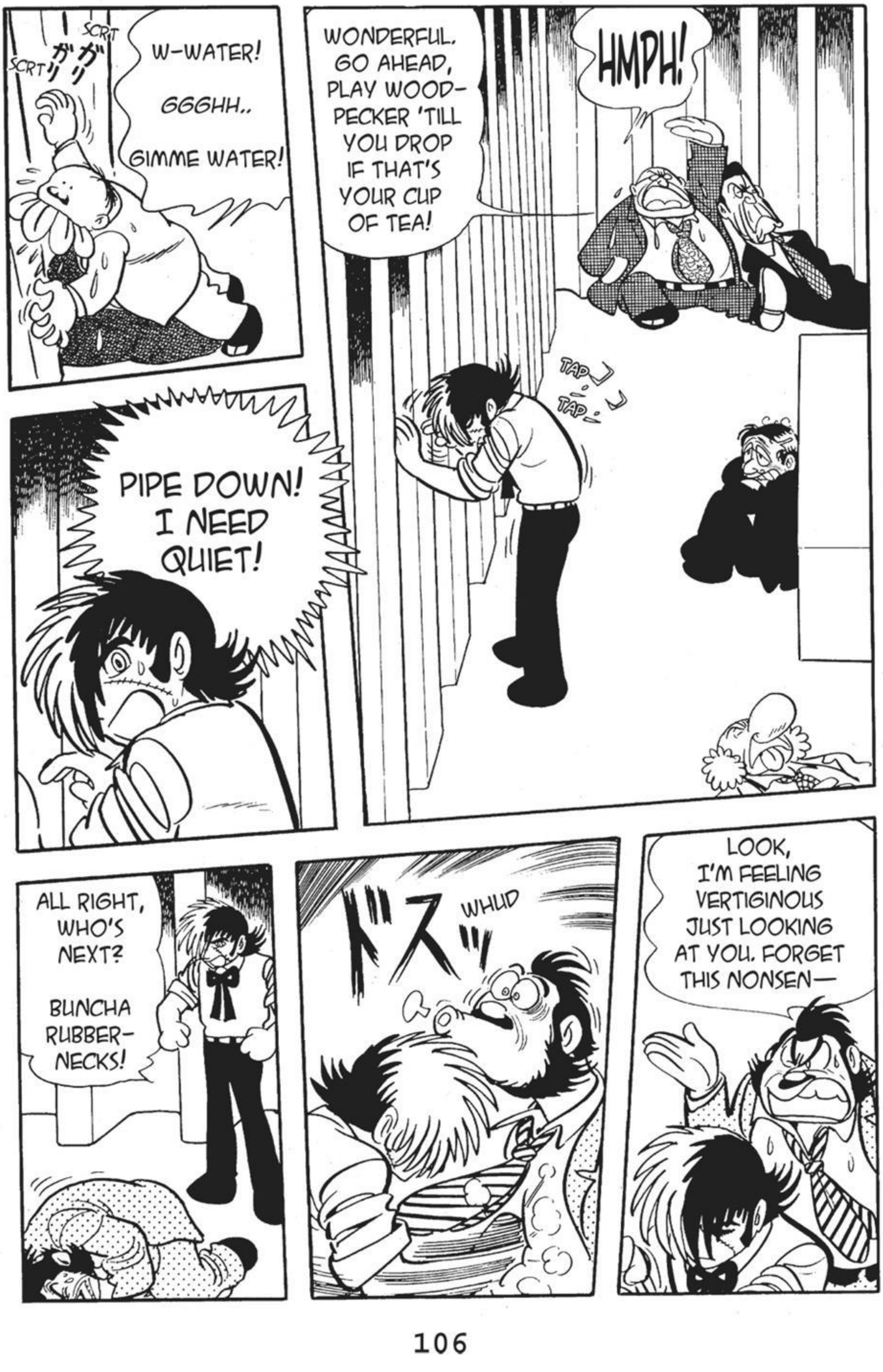

LET US OUT!
ONE, TWO, THREE!
LET'S ALL YELL AT ONCE!
THIS IS **YOUR** FAULT, BOSS!
DON'T KEEP BLAMING THIS ON ME!
FIGURE OUT HOW TO OPEN THEM.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR! IT'S YOUR FAULT!
IT'S NO USE. A THOUSAND TRUMPETING ELEPHANTS WOULDN'T BE HEARD ACROSS THESE SOUNDPROOF WALLS.
WHAT'S TO BECOME OF US IF THE DOORS NEVER OPEN?!
THERE ISN'T A DROP OF FOOD OR WATER DOWN HERE!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR BICKERING.
NO, IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A BLITHERING NINCOMPOOP!

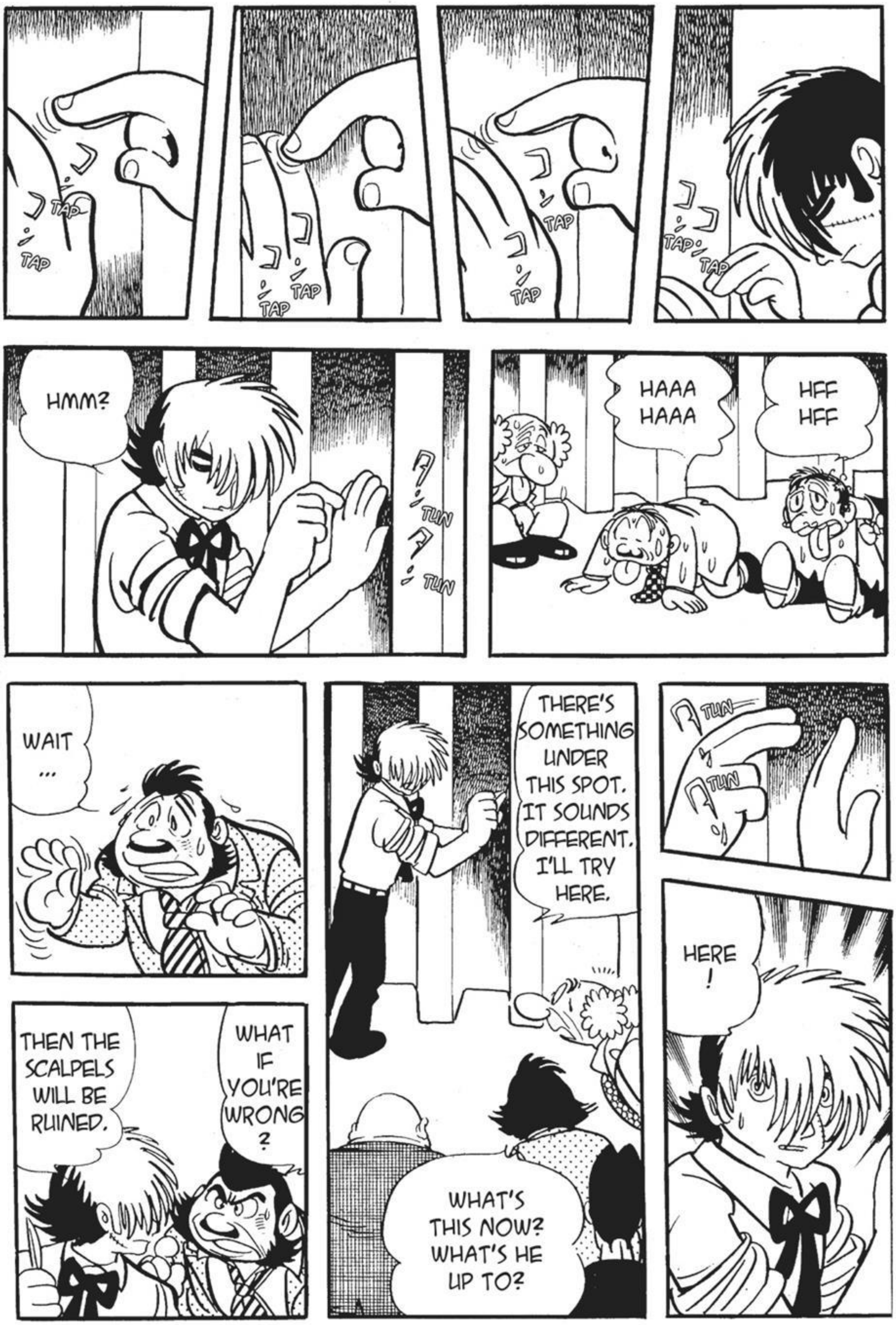

IN THREE DAYS, WE'LL DIE OF THIRST, DRY AS A MUMMY!
WILL WE GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THEN?!
ANSWER US. WILL WE BE SAVED WITHIN THREE DAYS?
W-WE WILL BE... PROBABLY...
WE WANT A GUARANTEE!
I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
WE HAVE NO CLUE WHAT'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE!
YOU CHOWDER-HEAD!
...
I'M THIRSTY.
W-WATER... I NEED WATER!!

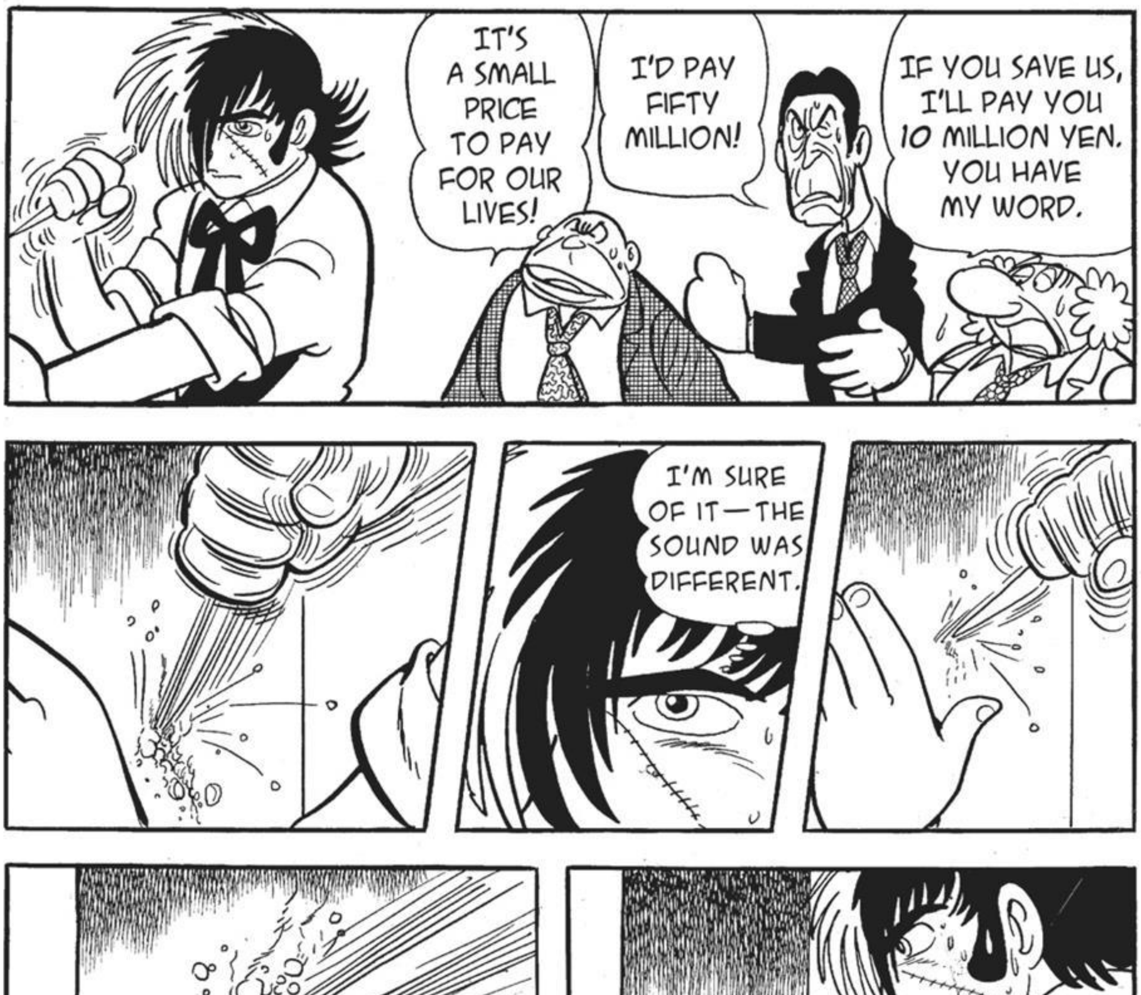

WATER !!
I'D GIVE 100,000 YEN FOR ONE GLASS!
BOO-HOO-HOO!
WE'RE ALL THIRSTY !!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH!
IT'S BEEN HALF A DAY ALREADY...
EVERYONE MUST BE LOOKING FOR US BY NOW.
BUT I BET YOU NOBODY THINKS WE'D BE DOWN HERE.
E... EVERY-BODY!
I KNOW HOW WE MIGHT BE SAVED!
THE WALL! IF WE SEVER THE CABLE BEHIND IT, AT LEAST ONE OF THE SHUTTERS WILL OPEN! FOR SURE!

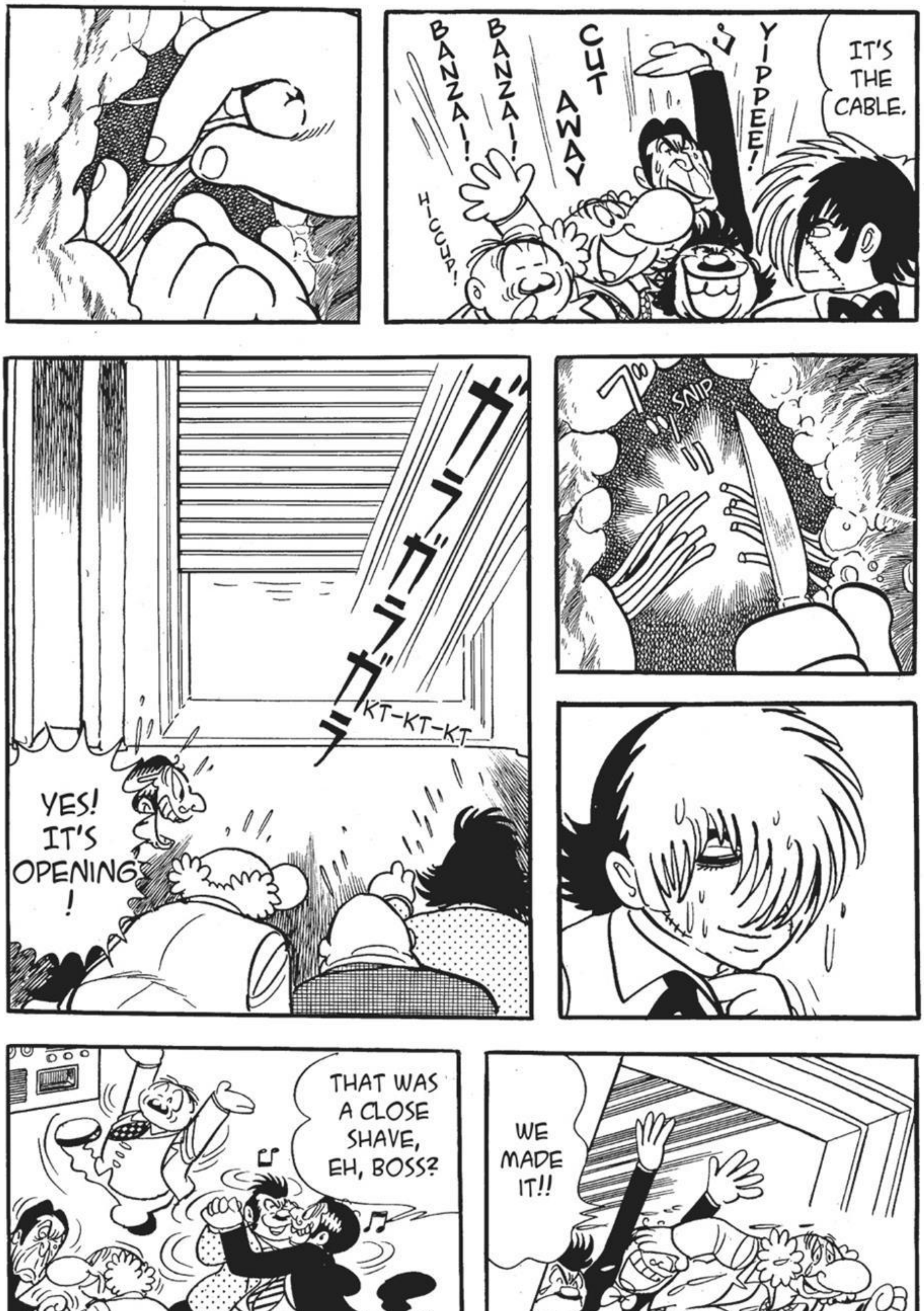

THE WALL! ARE YOU SURE THE CABLE RUNS BEHIND IT?
DOES ANYONE HAVE ANYTHING WE COULD USE TO BORE THROUGH IT?
WHY WOULD WE?!
NOBODY HAS ANYTHING SHARP?
THREE SCALPELS... THAT'S ALL?
THAT'S ALL WE HAVE?
IF WE FOCUS ON ONE SPOT, THREE SCALPELS SHOULD SUFFICE.
BUT WHERE IS THAT SPOT?
SHALL WE JUST POKE AROUND RANDOMLY? IT'LL TAKE A YEAR! AND EVEN THEN, WE MIGHTN'T FIND IT.
I'LL LOOK FOR IT!
THIS IS THE SPOT! I KNOW IT!

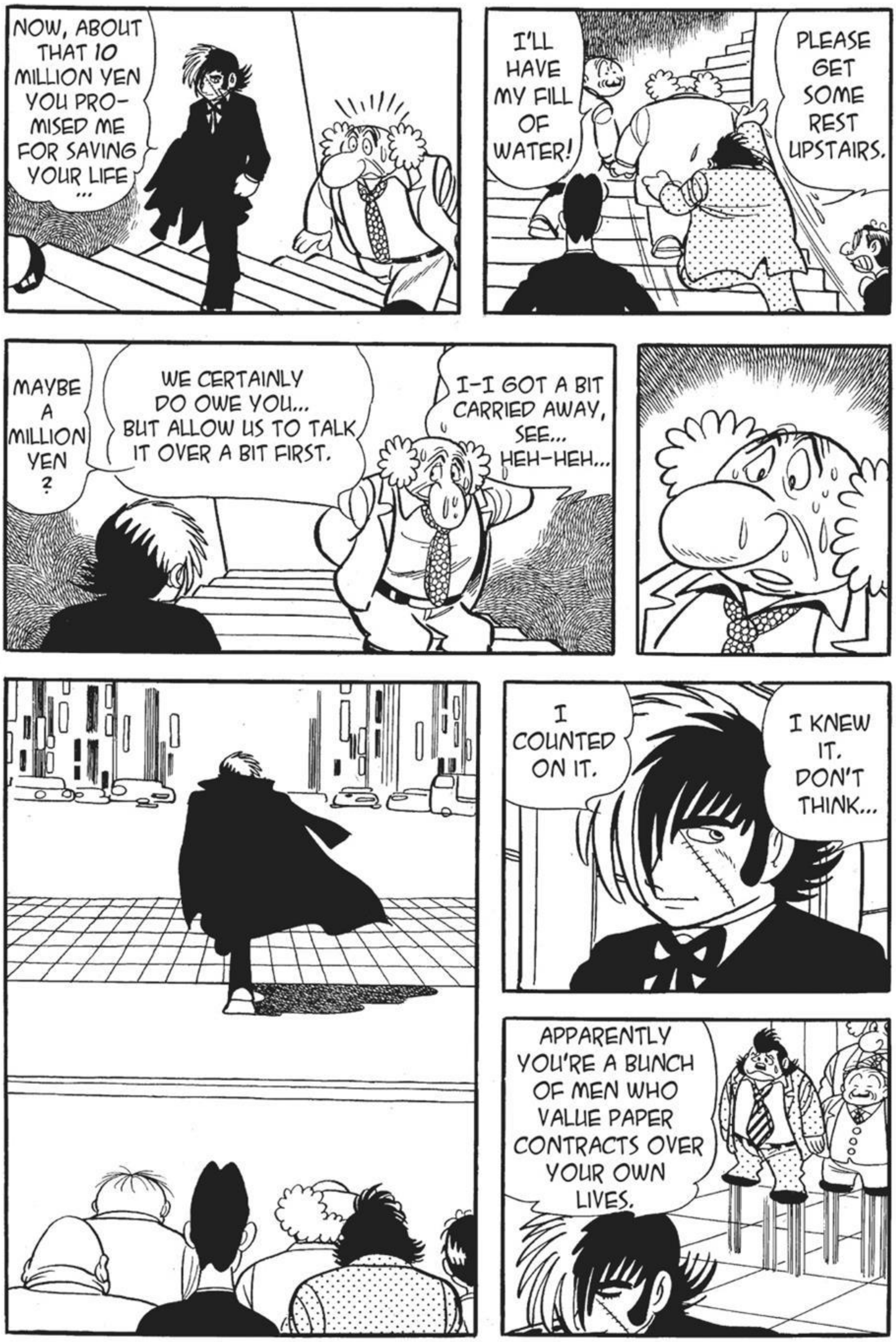

STOP!!
I'LL FIND IT IF YOU CAN ALL PROMISE NOT TO INTERFERE.
YOU CAN'T SACRIFICE OUR SCALPELS ON A WHIM.
THESE FINGERS ARE OUR HOPE.
I'LL TAP THE WALL AND LISTEN FOR THE RIGHT SPOT.
WHAT'VE YOU GOT UP YOUR SLEEVE?
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
WHAT IS THIS, EXAMINATION BY PERCUSSION? HE'D NEVER FIND THE CABLE IN TIME.
PURE LUNACY!
TAP TAP


SCRT ガリ
SCRT ガリ
W-WATER!
GGGHH..
GIMME WATER!
WONDERFUL. GO AHEAD, PLAY WOODPECKER 'TILL YOU DROP IF THAT'S YOUR CUP OF TEA!
HMPH!
TAP
TAP
PIPE DOWN! I NEED QUIET!
ALL RIGHT, WHO'S NEXT?
BUNCHA RUBBERNECKS!
ドスッ WHUD
LOOK, I'M FEELING VERTIGINOUS JUST LOOKING AT YOU. FORGET THIS NONSEN—

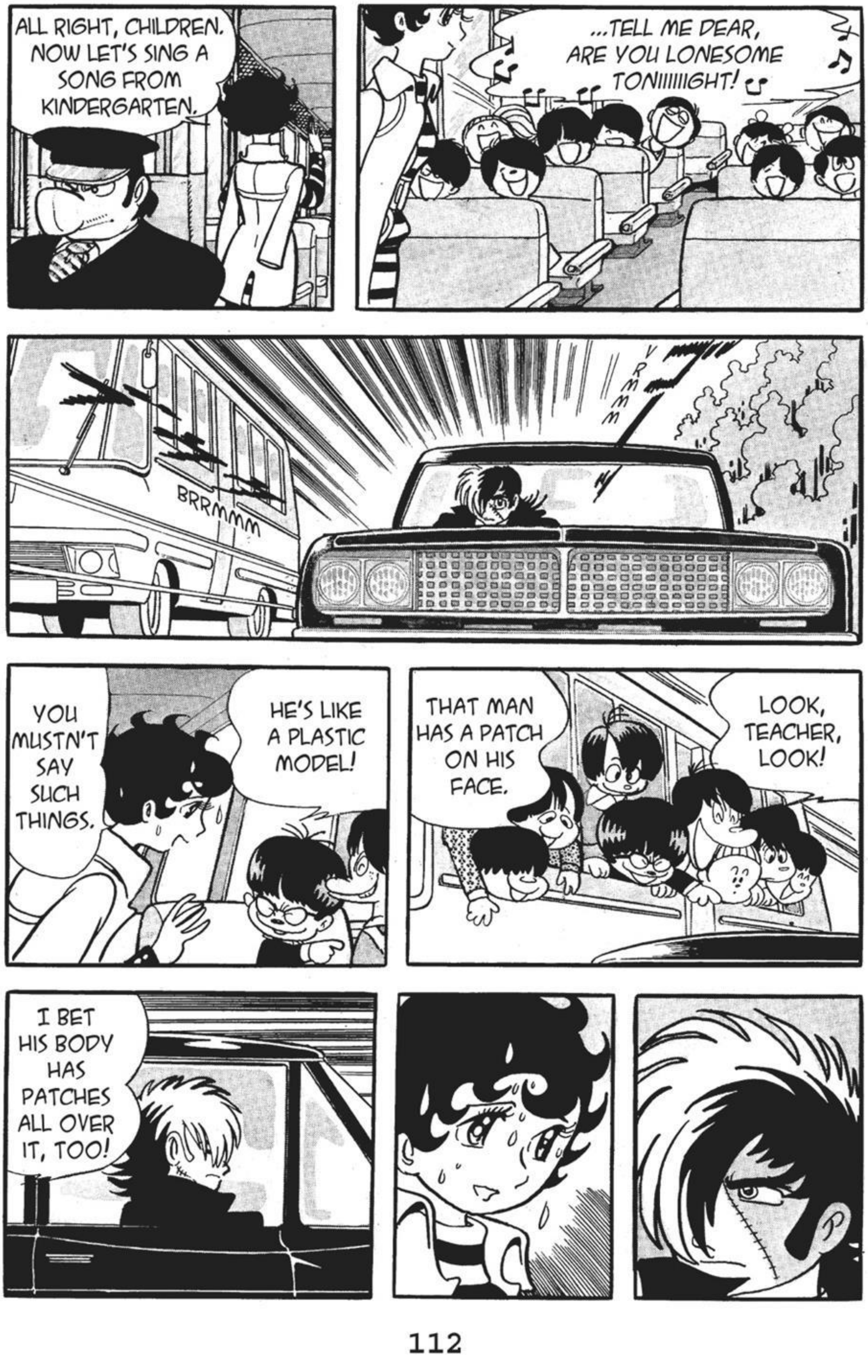

TAP TAP
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
TAP TAP
HFF HFF
HAAA HAAA
HMM?
TUN TUN
TUN TUN
THERE'S SOMETHING UNDER THIS SPOT. IT SOUNDS DIFFERENT. I'LL TRY HERE.
WAIT ...
WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG?
THEN THE SCALPELS WILL BE RUINED.
WHAT'S THIS NOW? WHAT'S HE UP TO?
HERE!

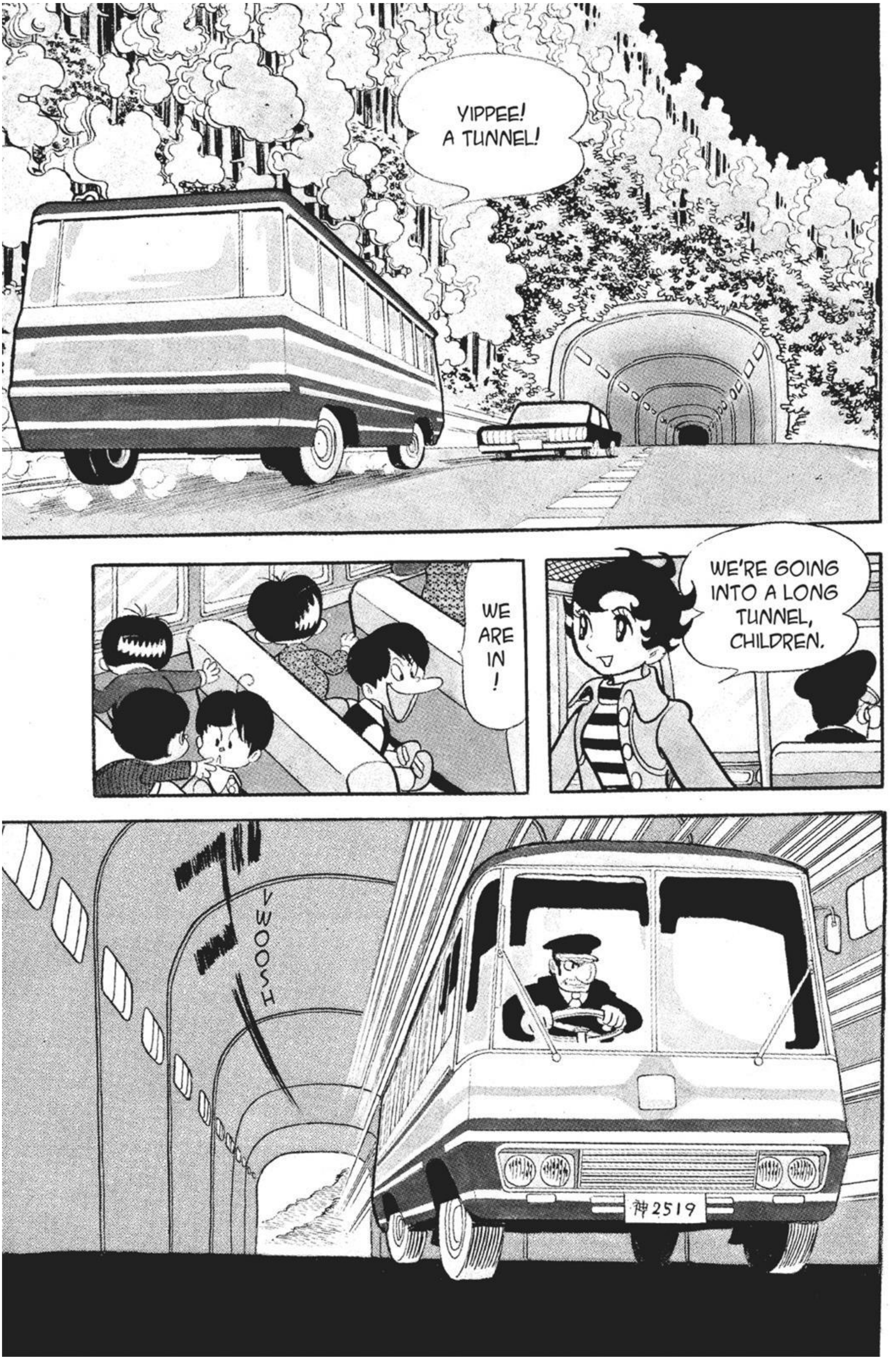

IF YOU SAVE US, I'LL PAY YOU 10 MILLION YEN. YOU HAVE MY WORD.
I'D PAY FIFTY MILLION!
IT'S A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR OUR LIVES!
I'M SURE OF IT—THE SOUND WAS DIFFERENT.
WHOAH!

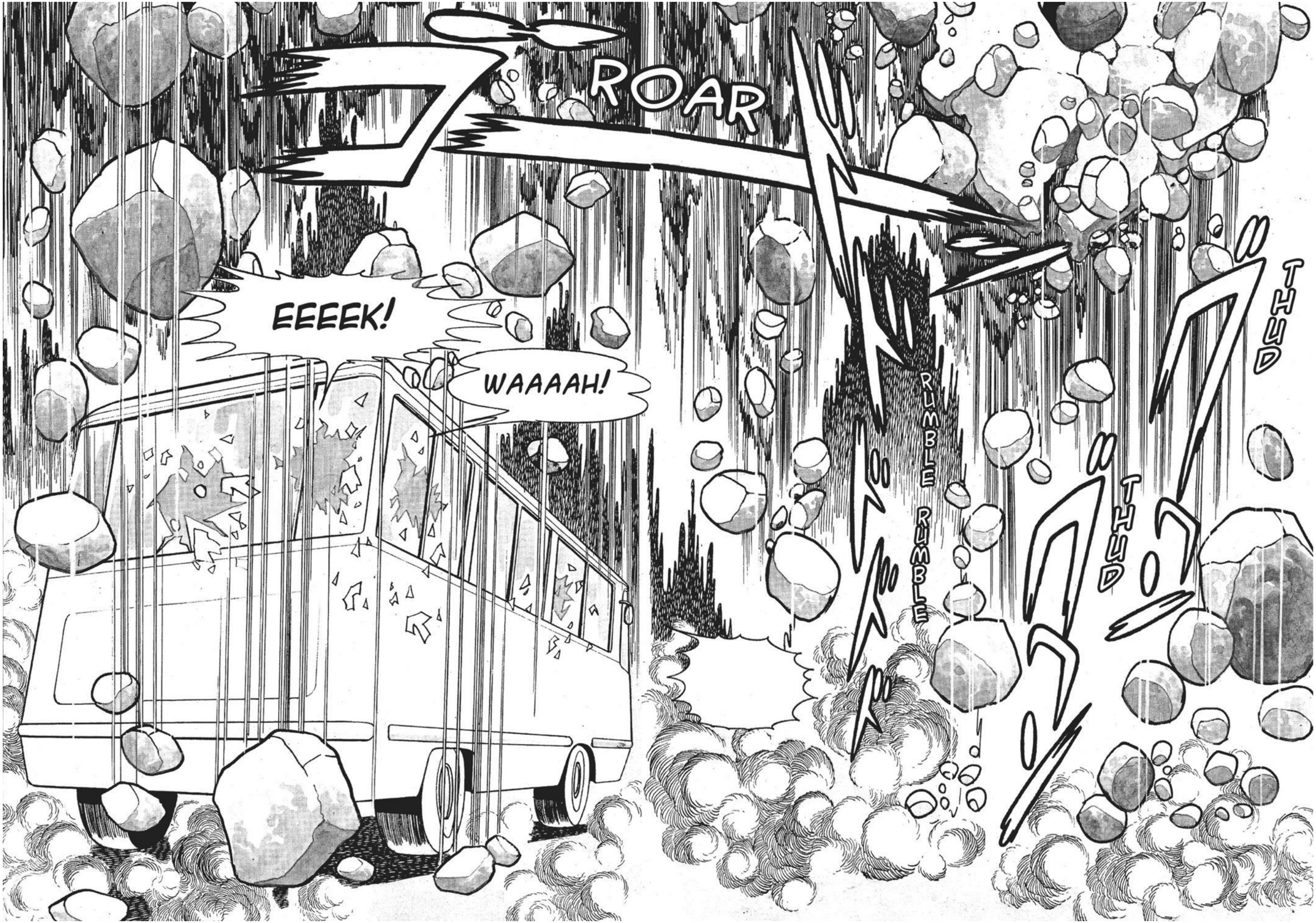

IT'S THE CABLE.
YIPPEE!
CUT AWAY
BANZAI!
BANZAI!
HICCUP!
SNIP
KT-KT-KT
ガラガラガラ
YES! IT'S OPENING!
WE MADE IT!!
THAT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE, EH, BOSS?

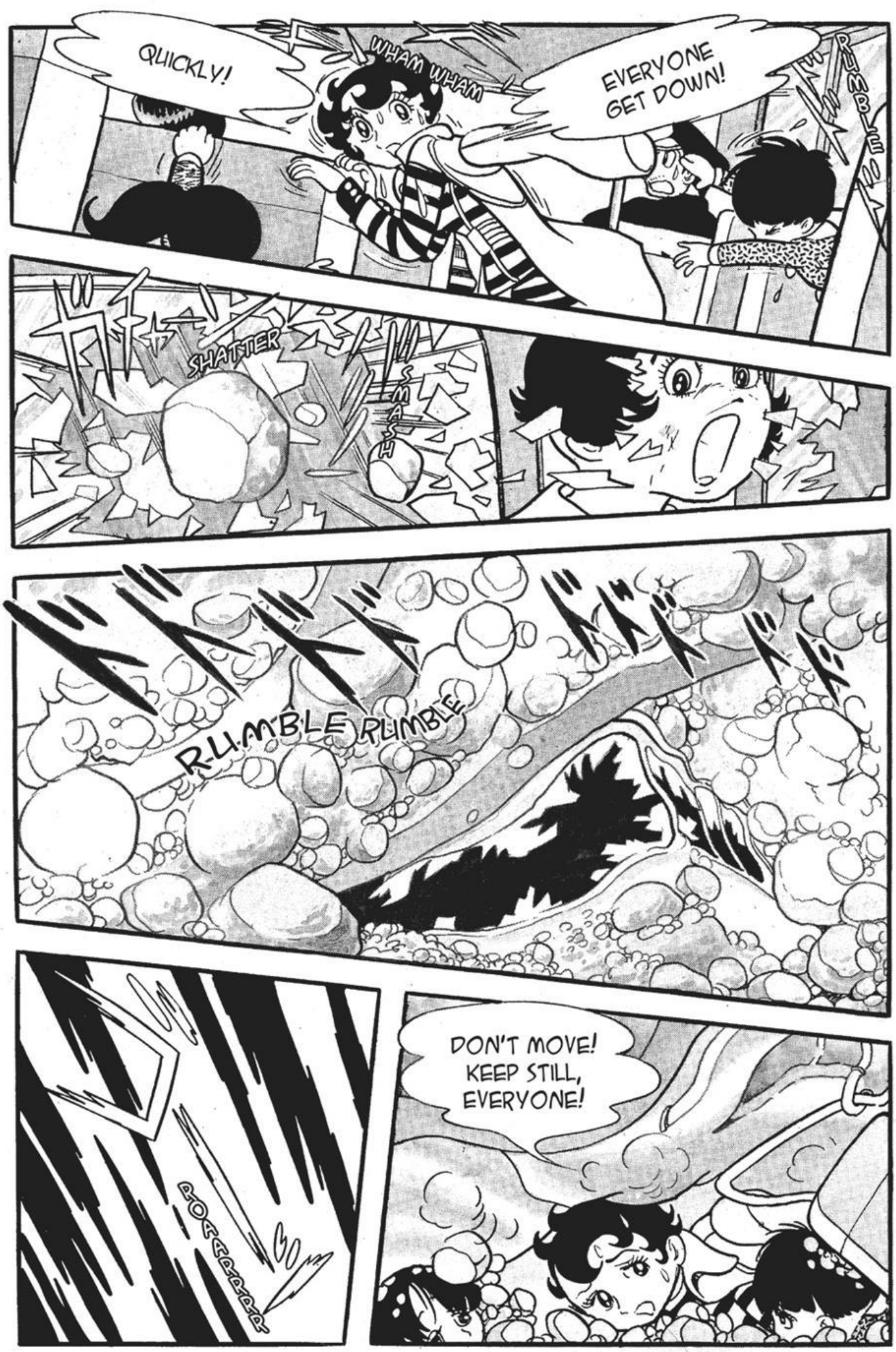

NOW, ABOUT THAT 10 MILLION YEN YOU PROMISED ME FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE...
PLEASE GET SOME REST UPSTAIRS.
I'LL HAVE MY FILL OF WATER!
I-I GOT A BIT CARRIED AWAY, SEE... HEH-HEH...
WE CERTAINLY DO OWE YOU... BUT ALLOW US TO TALK IT OVER A BIT FIRST.
MAYBE A MILLION YEN?
I KNEW IT. DON'T THINK...
I COUNTED ON IT.
APPARENTLY YOU'RE A BUNCH OF MEN WHO VALUE PAPER CONTRACTS OVER YOUR OWN LIVES.

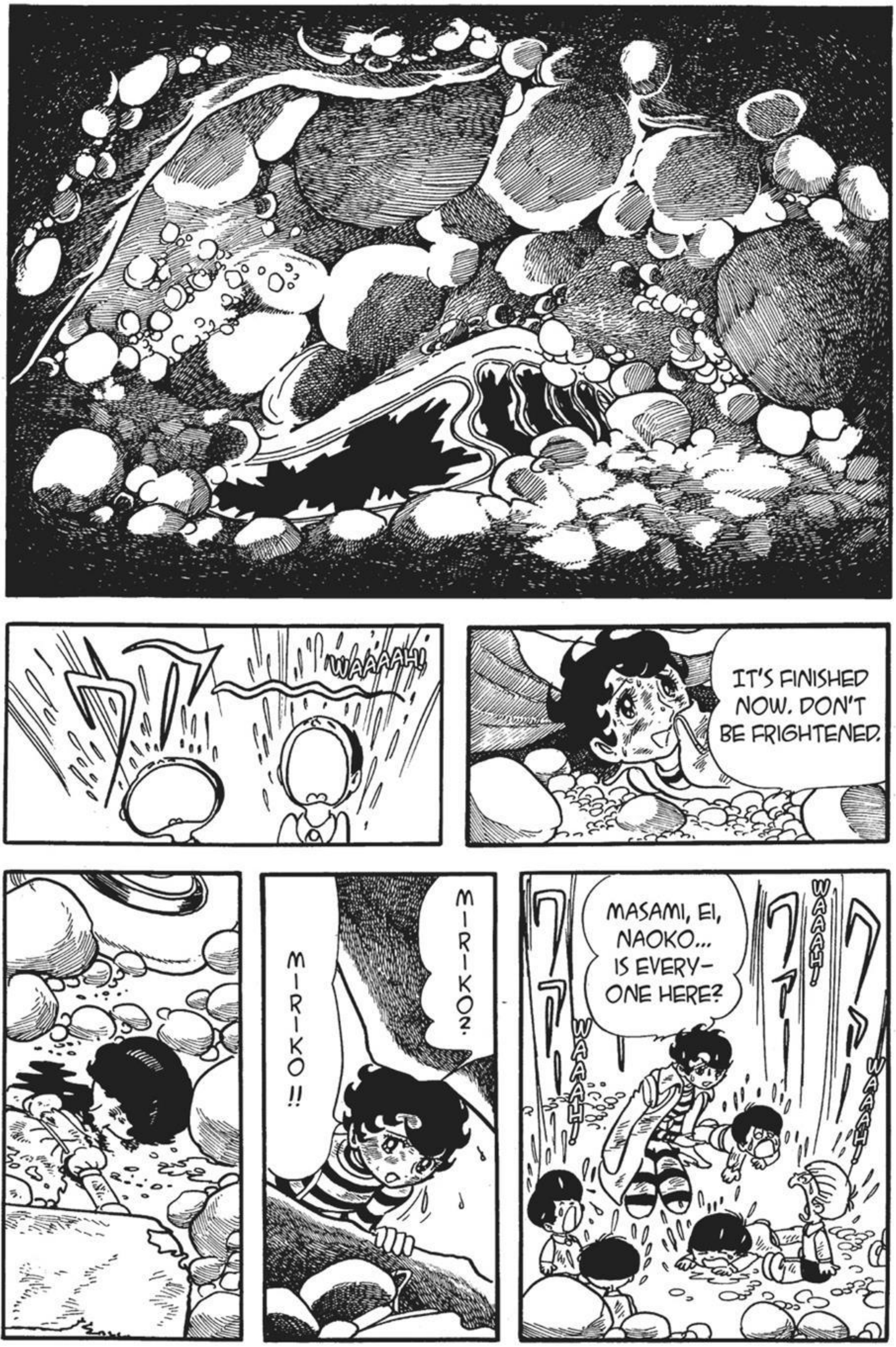
DIRTJACKED

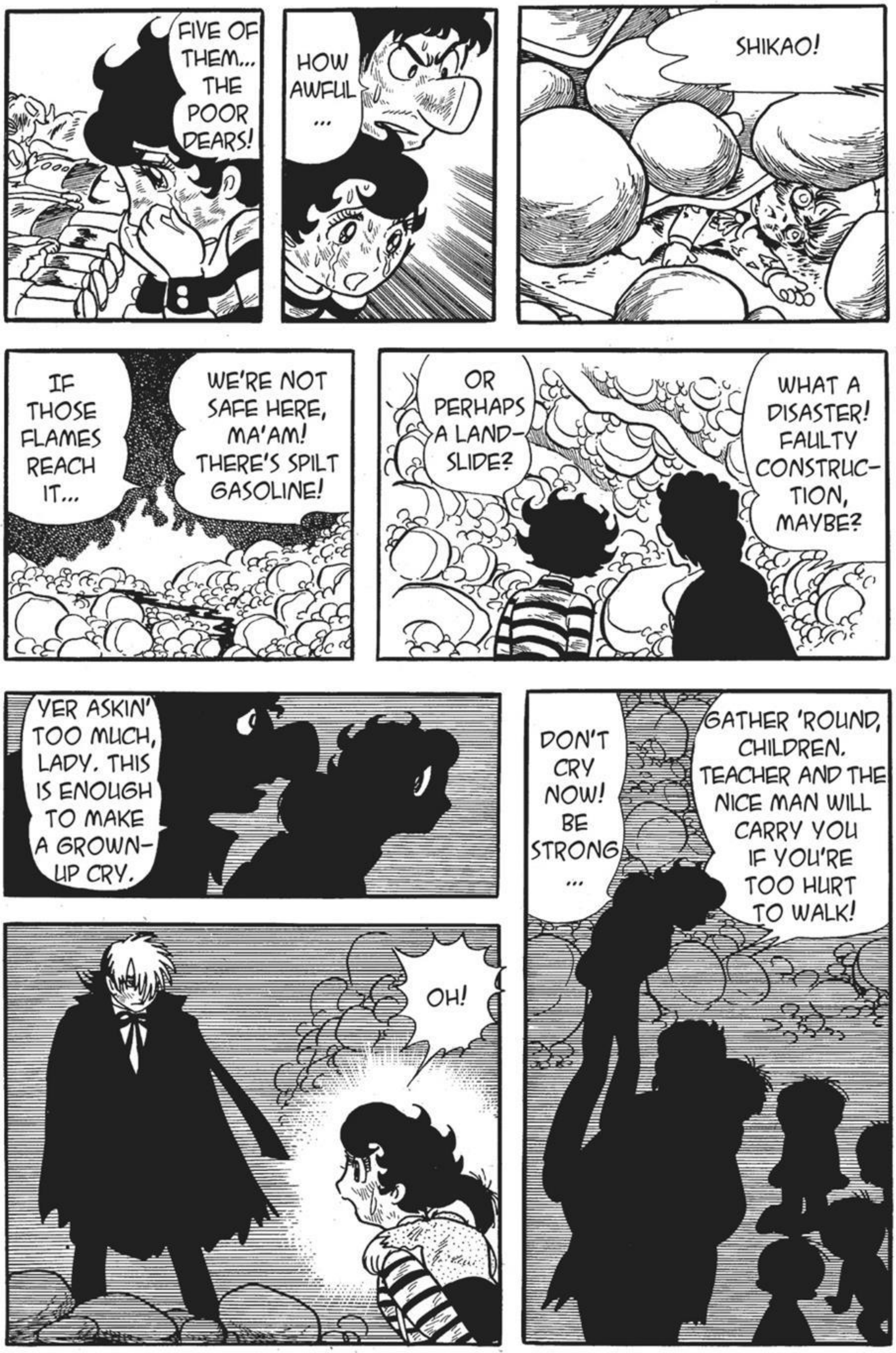

ALL RIGHT, CHILDREN. NOW LET'S SING A SONG FROM KINDERGARTEN.
...TELL ME DEAR, ARE YOU LONESOME TONIIIIIIGHT!
VRMMM
BRRMMM
HE'S LIKE A PLASTIC MODEL!
YOU MUSTN'T SAY SUCH THINGS.
LOOK, TEACHER, LOOK!
THAT MAN HAS A PATCH ON HIS FACE.
I BET HIS BODY HAS PATCHES ALL OVER IT, TOO!

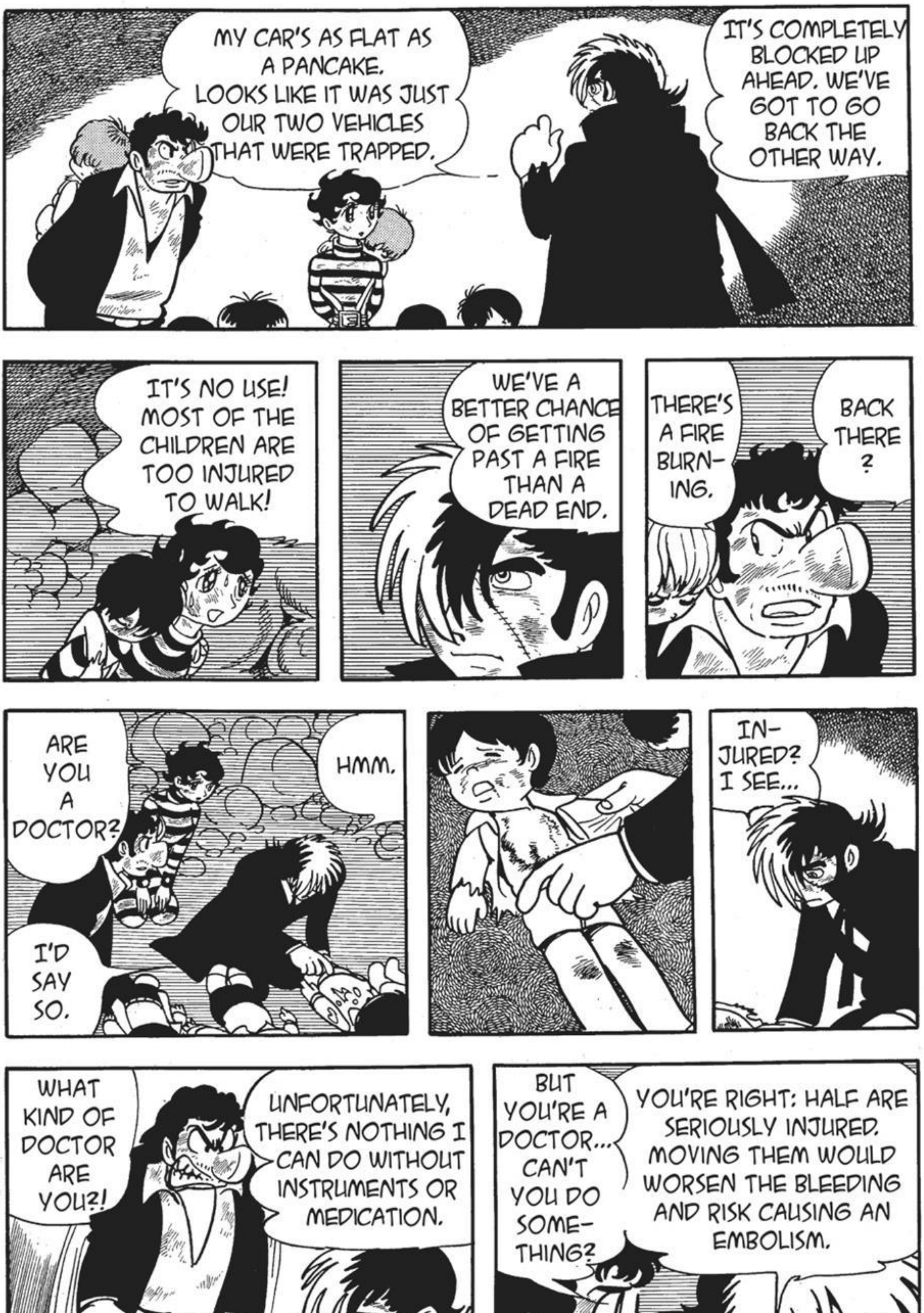

YIPPEE! A TUNNEL!
WE ARE IN!
WE'RE GOING INTO A LONG TUNNEL, CHILDREN.
VWOOSH
神2519

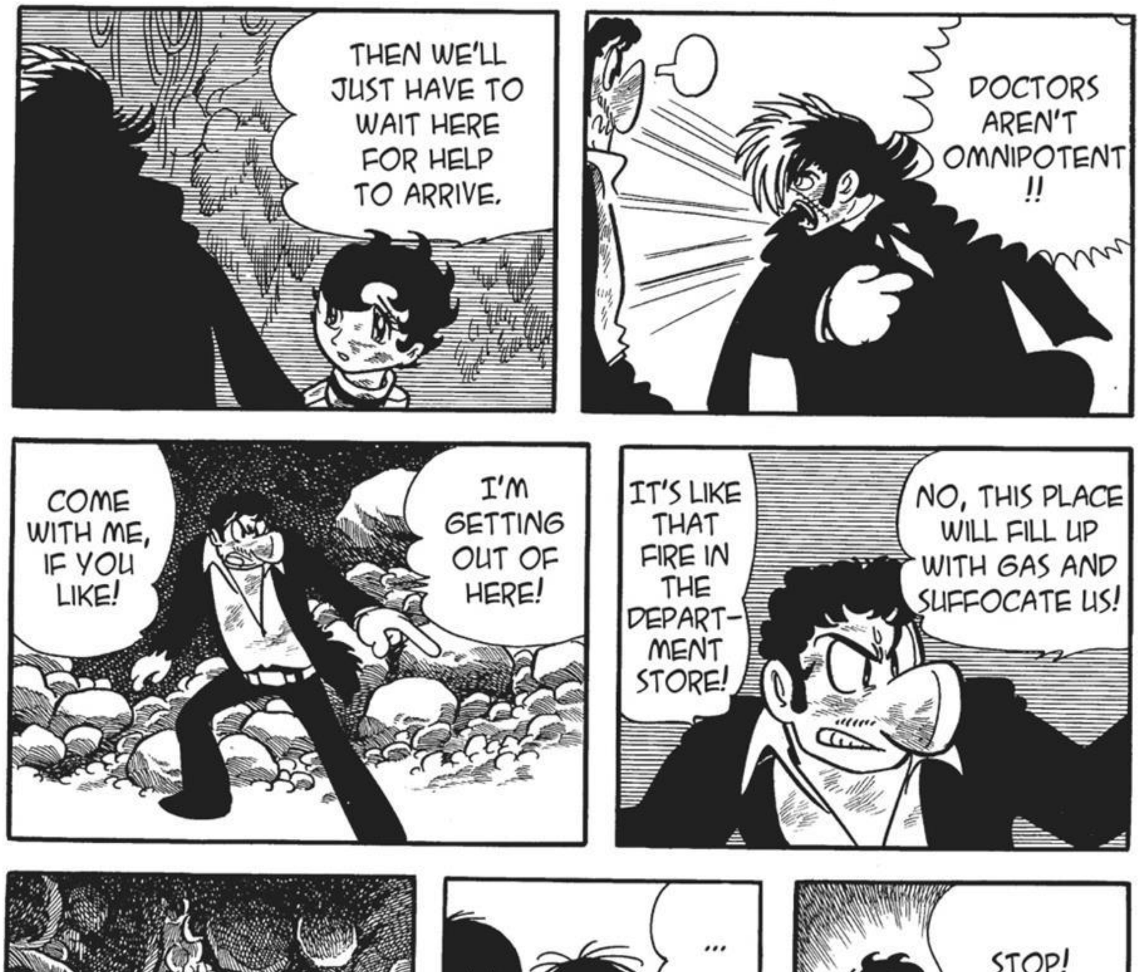

ROAR
EEEEK!
WAAAAH!
RUMBLE RUMBLE
THUD
THUD

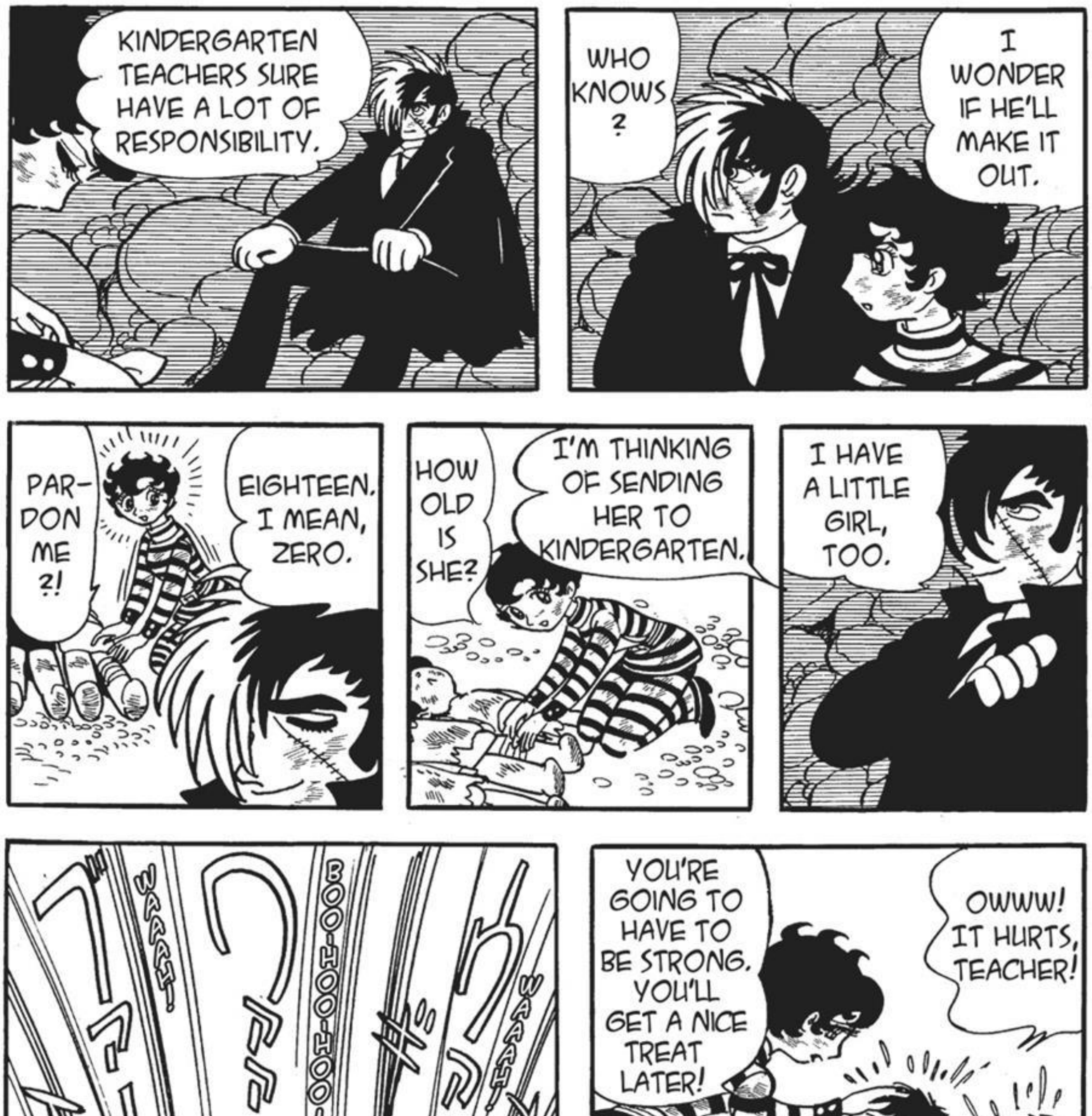

RUMBLE
EVERYONE GET DOWN!
WHAM WHAM
QUICKLY!
SMASH
SHATTER
RUMBLE RUMBLE
DON'T MOVE! KEEP STILL, EVERYONE!
ROAARRRR

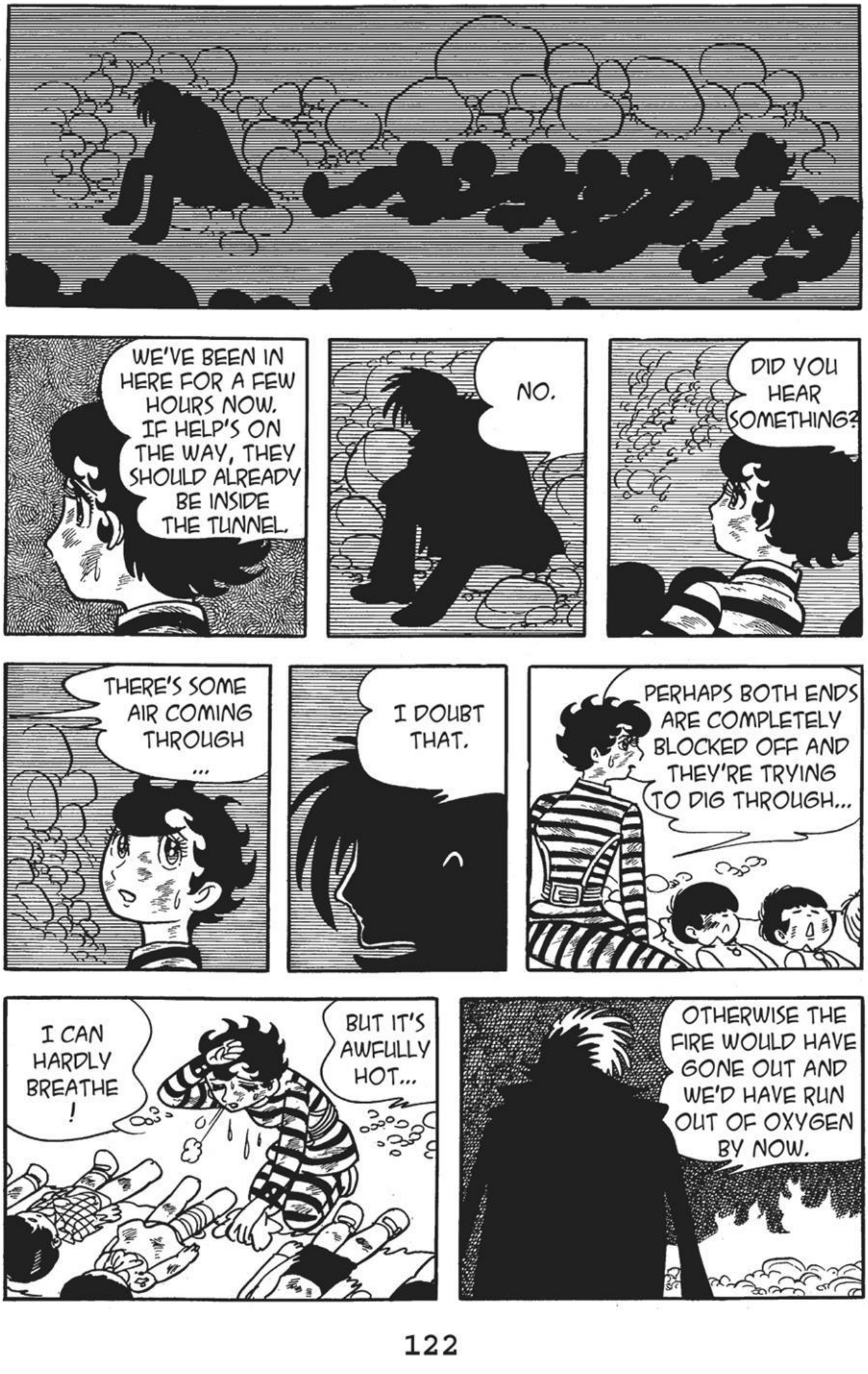

WAAAAH!
IT'S FINISHED NOW. DON'T BE FRIGHTENED.
MIRIKO?
MIRIKO!!
MASAMI, EI, NAOKO... IS EVERY-ONE HERE?
WAAAH!
WAAAH!
WAAAH!
WAAAH!

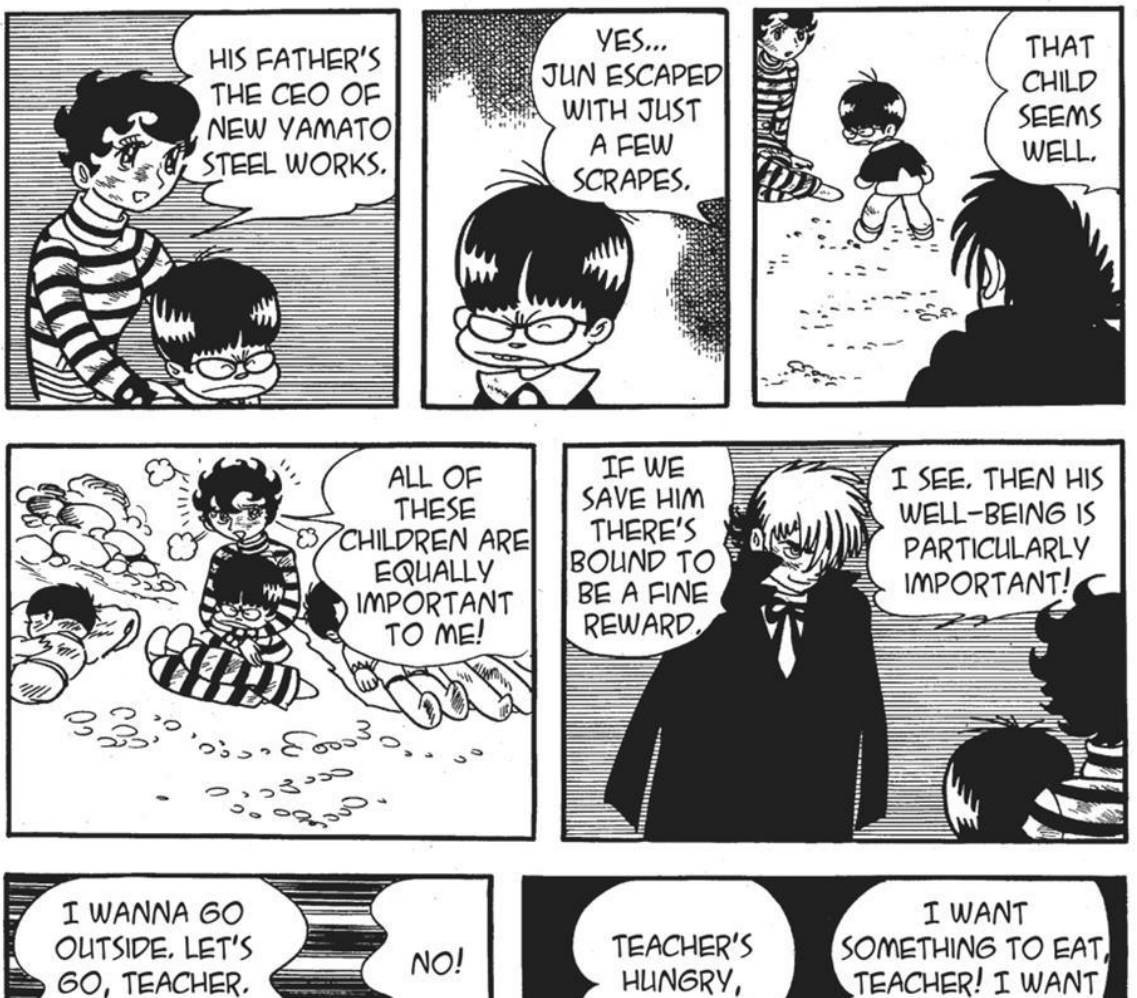

FIVE OF THEM... THE POOR DEARS!
HOW AWFUL ...
SHIKAO!
WE'RE NOT SAFE HERE, MA'AM! THERE'S SPILT GASOLINE!
IF THOSE FLAMES REACH IT...
WHAT A DISASTER! FAULTY CONSTRUCTION, MAYBE?
OR PERHAPS A LANDSLIDE?
YER ASKIN' TOO MUCH, LADY. THIS IS ENOUGH TO MAKE A GROWN-UP CRY.
OH!
GATHER 'ROUND, CHILDREN. TEACHER AND THE NICE MAN WILL CARRY YOU IF YOU'RE TOO HURT TO WALK!
DON'T CRY NOW! BE STRONG ...

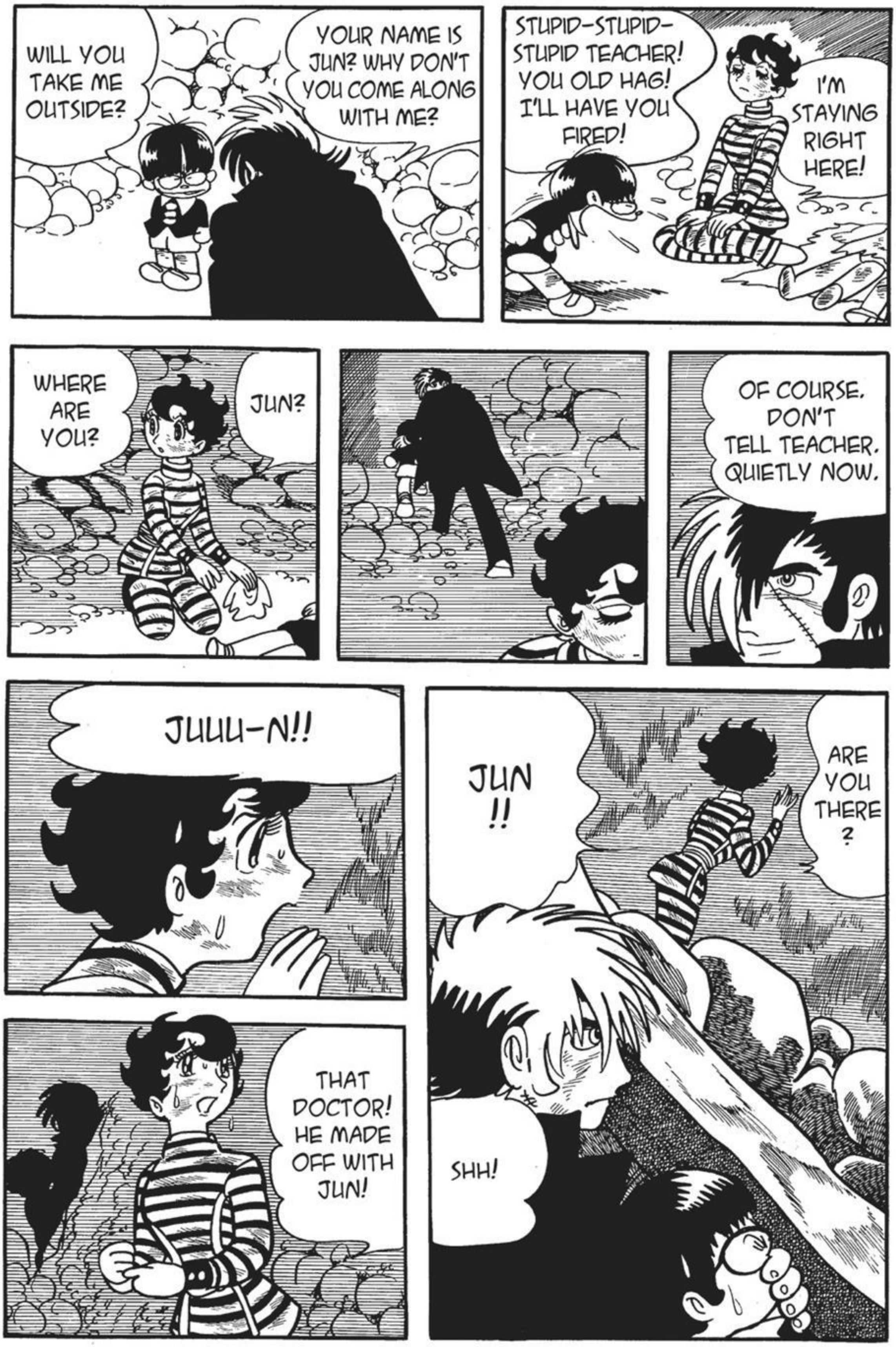

MY CAR'S AS FLAT AS A PANCAKE. LOOKS LIKE IT WAS JUST OUR TWO VEHICLES THAT WERE TRAPPED.
IT'S COMPLETELY BLOCKED UP AHEAD. WE'VE GOT TO GO BACK THE OTHER WAY.
IT'S NO USE! MOST OF THE CHILDREN ARE TOO INJURED TO WALK!
WE'VE A BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING PAST A FIRE THAN A DEAD END.
THERE'S A FIRE BURNING.
BACK THERE?
ARE YOU A DOCTOR?
HMM.
I'D SAY SO.
INJURED? I SEE...
WHAT KIND OF DOCTOR ARE YOU?!
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO WITHOUT INSTRUMENTS OR MEDICATION.
BUT YOU'RE A DOCTOR... CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING?
YOU'RE RIGHT: HALF ARE SERIOUSLY INJURED. MOVING THEM WOULD WORSEN THE BLEEDING AND RISK CAUSING AN EMBOLISM.

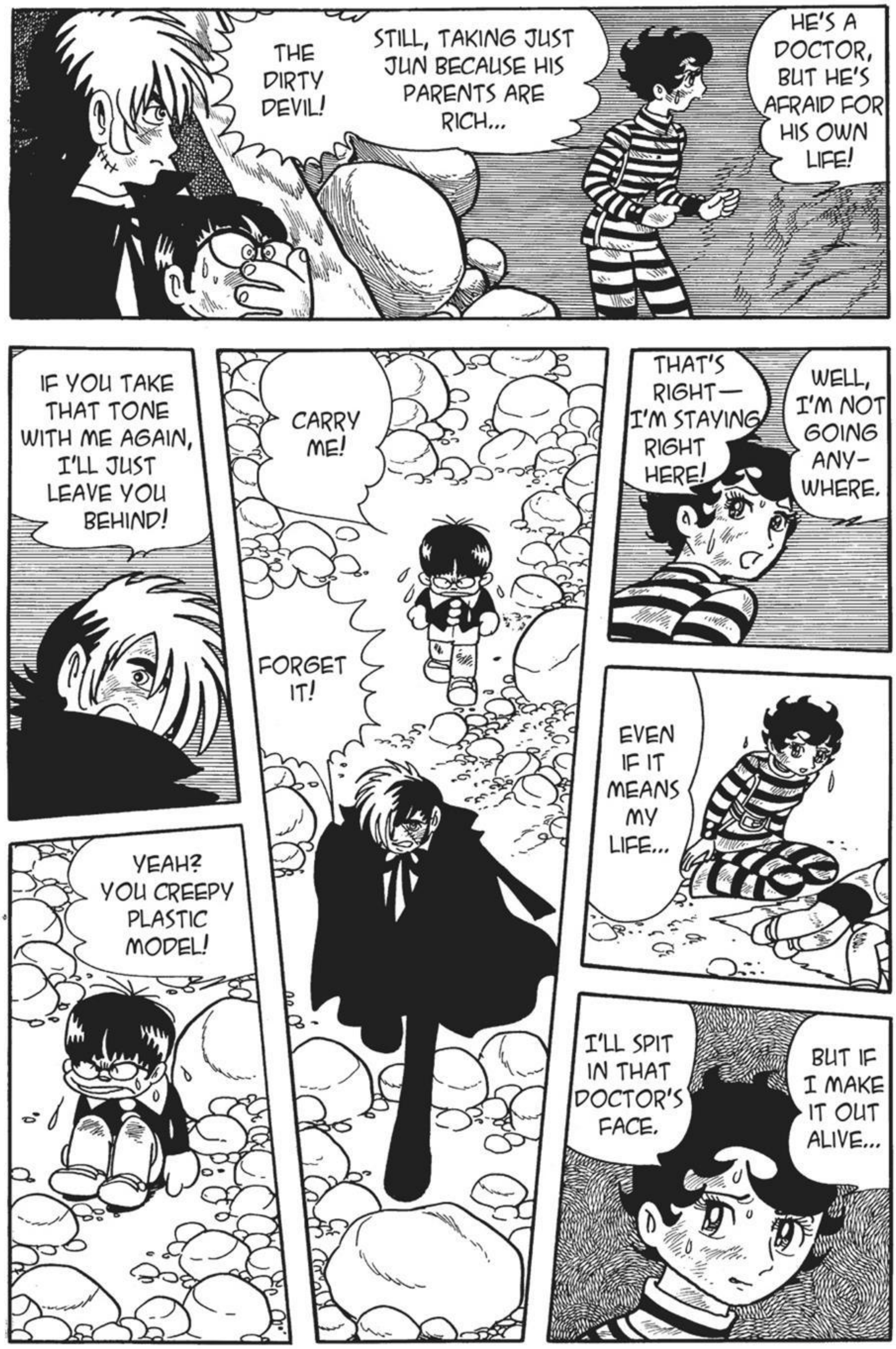

THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT HERE FOR HELP TO ARRIVE.
DOCTORS AREN'T OMNIPOTENT !!
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
COME WITH ME, IF YOU LIKE!
NO, THIS PLACE WILL FILL UP WITH GAS AND SUFFOCATE US!
IT'S LIKE THAT FIRE IN THE DEPARTMENT STORE!
...
STOP! TEACHER'S HERE, SO DON'T BE AFRAID.

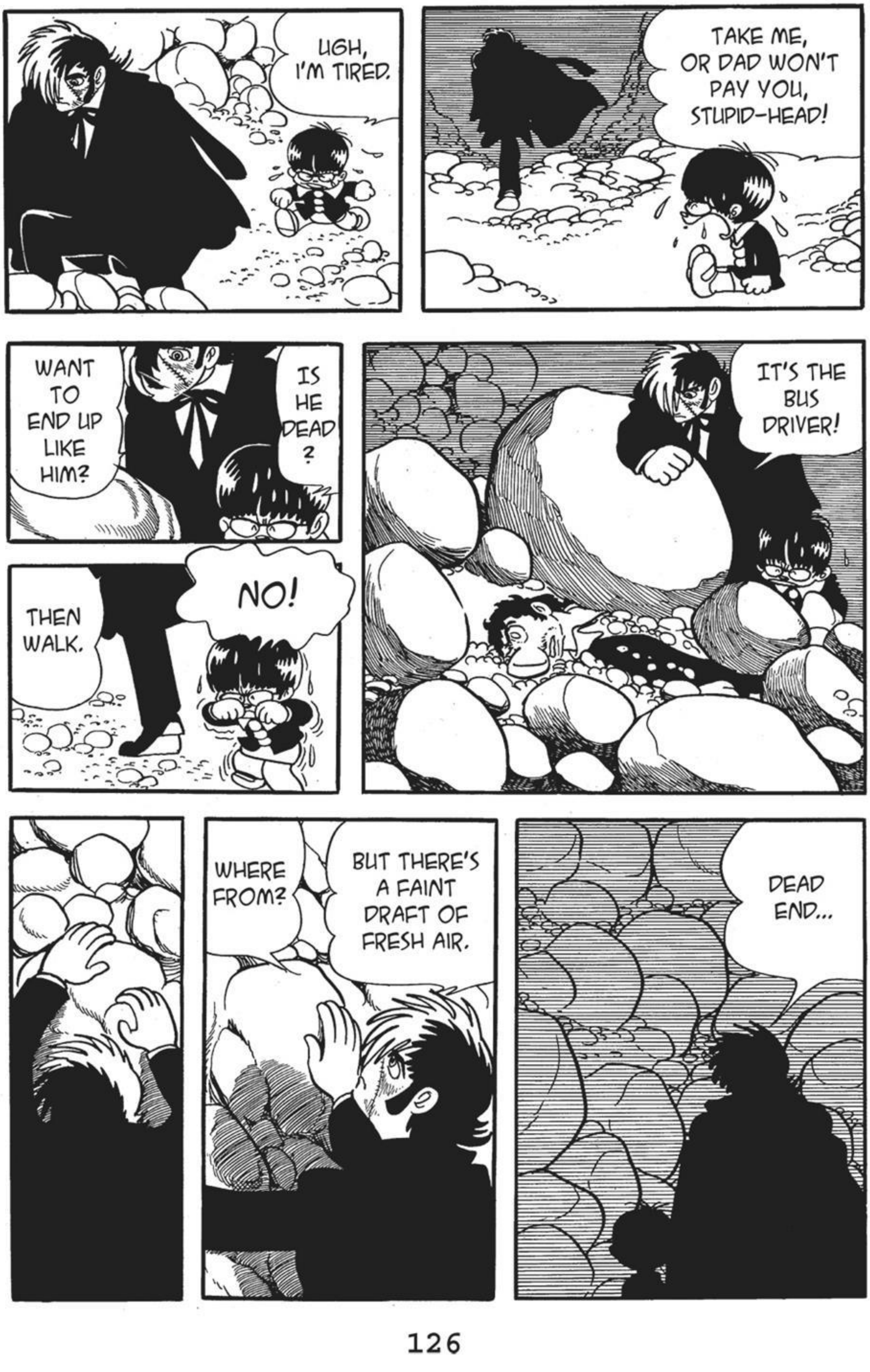

I WONDER IF HE'LL MAKE IT OUT.
WHO KNOWS?
KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS SURE HAVE A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY.
I HAVE A LITTLE GIRL, TOO.
I'M THINKING OF SENDING HER TO KINDERGARTEN.
HOW OLD IS SHE?
EIGHTEEN. I MEAN, ZERO.
PARDON ME?!
OWWW! IT HURTS, TEACHER!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE STRONG. YOU'LL GET A NICE TREAT LATER!
I'M THIRSTY!
PAPA! MAMA! WAAAH!
BOO-HOO
WAAAH!
BOO-HOO-HOO!
WAAAH!
WAAAH!

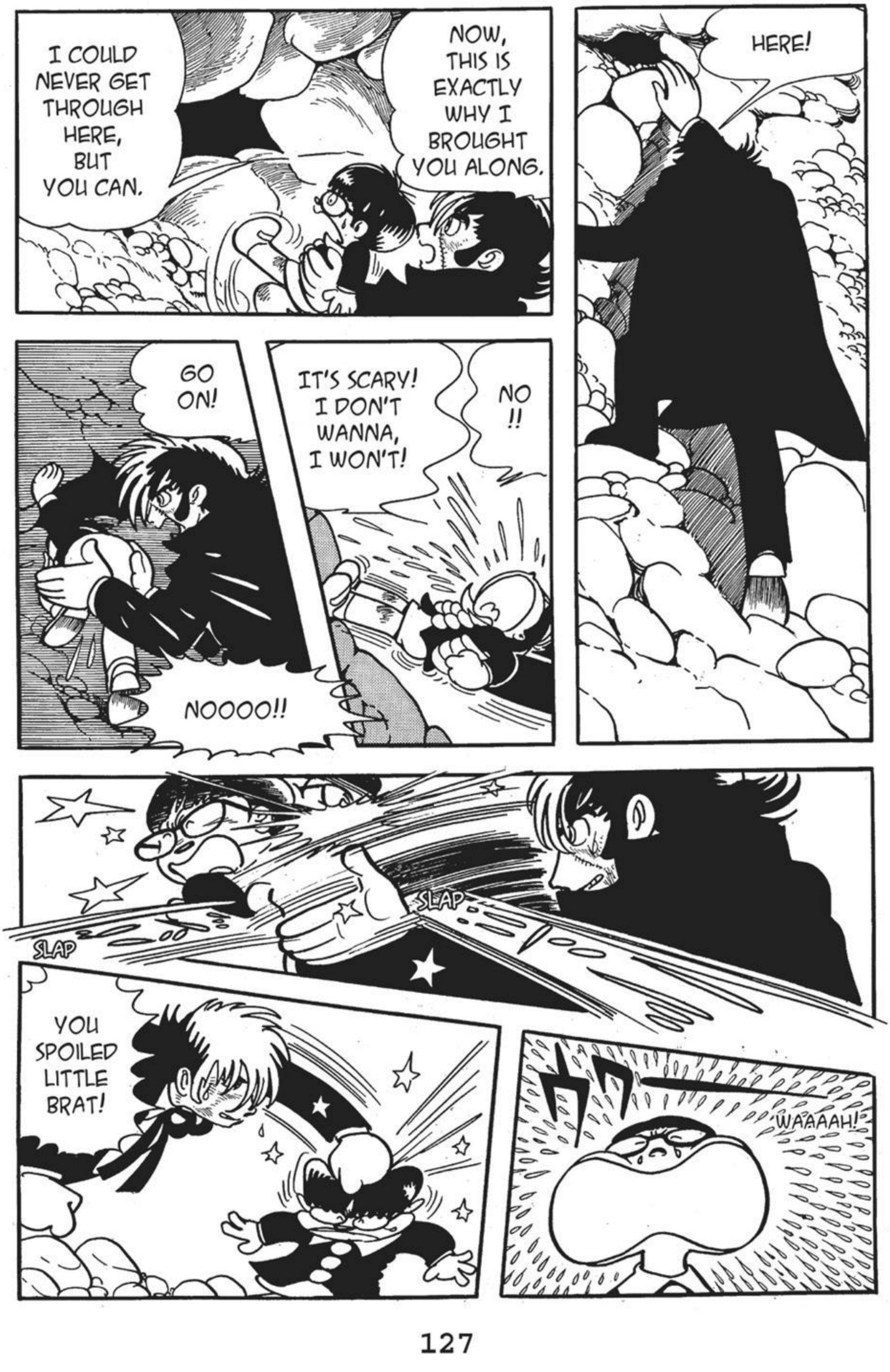

WE'VE BEEN IN HERE FOR A FEW HOURS NOW. IF HELP'S ON THE WAY, THEY SHOULD ALREADY BE INSIDE THE TUNNEL.
NO.
DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?
THERE'S SOME AIR COMING THROUGH ...
I DOUBT THAT.
PERHAPS BOTH ENDS ARE COMPLETELY BLOCKED OFF AND THEY'RE TRYING TO DIG THROUGH...
I CAN HARDLY BREATHE!
BUT IT'S AWFULLY HOT...
OTHERWISE THE FIRE WOULD HAVE GONE OUT AND WE'D HAVE RUN OUT OF OXYGEN BY NOW.

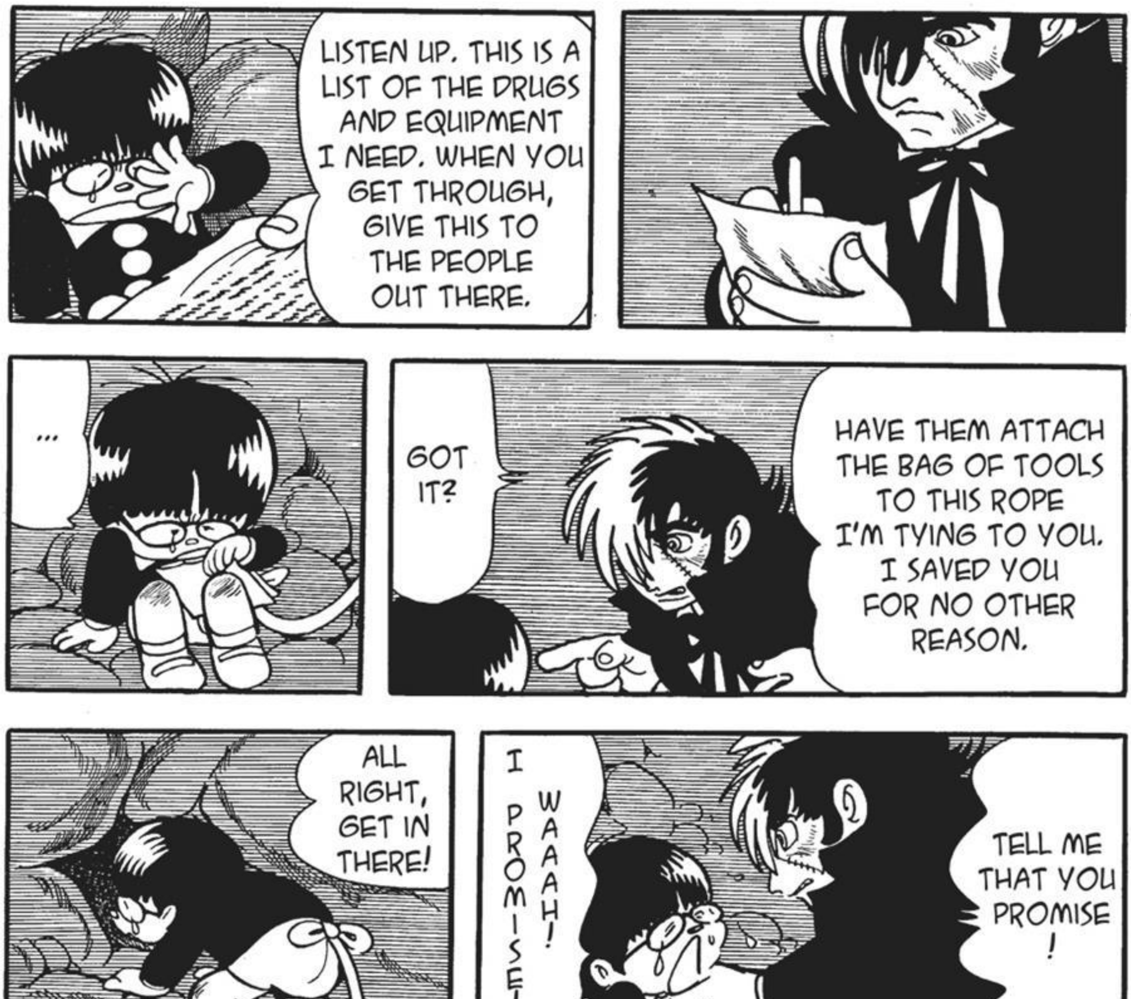

HIS FATHER'S THE CEO OF NEW YAMATO STEEL WORKS.
YES... JUN ESCAPED WITH JUST A FEW SCRAPES.
THAT CHILD SEEMS WELL.
ALL OF THESE CHILDREN ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO ME!
IF WE SAVE HIM THERE'S BOUND TO BE A FINE REWARD.
I SEE. THEN HIS WELL-BEING IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT!
I WANNA GO OUTSIDE. LET'S GO, TEACHER. I DON'T WANNA STAY HERE.
NO!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THEM. LET'S GO!
YOUR FRIENDS ARE HURT. WE NEED TO STAY HERE.
TEACHER'S HUNGRY, TOO, JUN. WE HAVE TO BE PATIENT.
I WANT SOMETHING TO EAT, TEACHER! I WANT CHOCOLATE! GIMME CHOCOLATE OR I'LL TELL MY PAPA ON YOU.

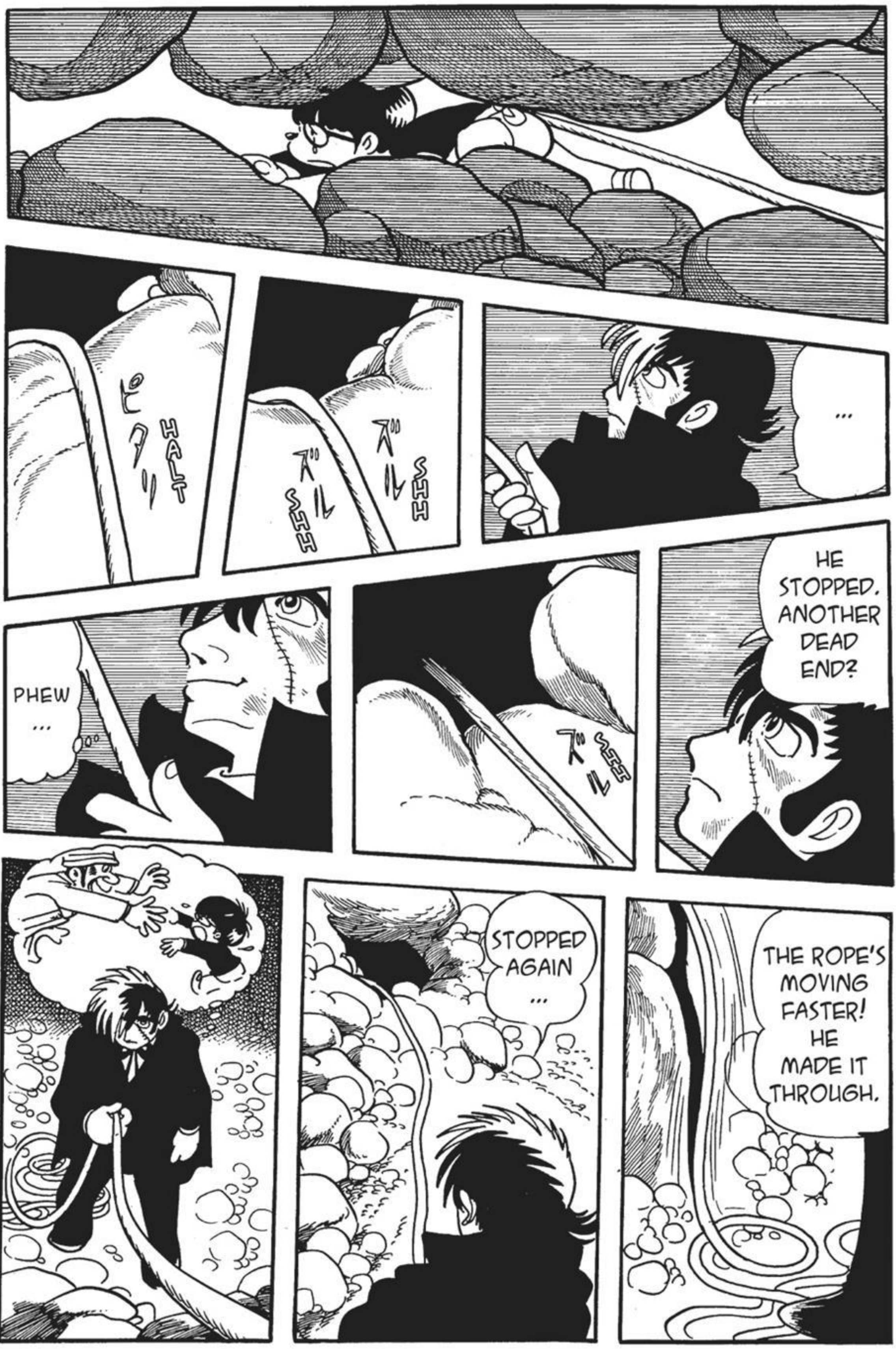

WILL YOU TAKE ME OUTSIDE?
YOUR NAME IS JUN? WHY DON'T YOU COME ALONG WITH ME?
STUPID-STUPID-STUPID TEACHER! YOU OLD HAG! I'LL HAVE YOU FIRED!
I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE!
WHERE ARE YOU?
JUN?
OF COURSE. DON'T TELL TEACHER. QUIETLY NOW.
JUUU-N!!
JUN !!
ARE YOU THERE ?
THAT DOCTOR! HE MADE OFF WITH JUN!
SHH!

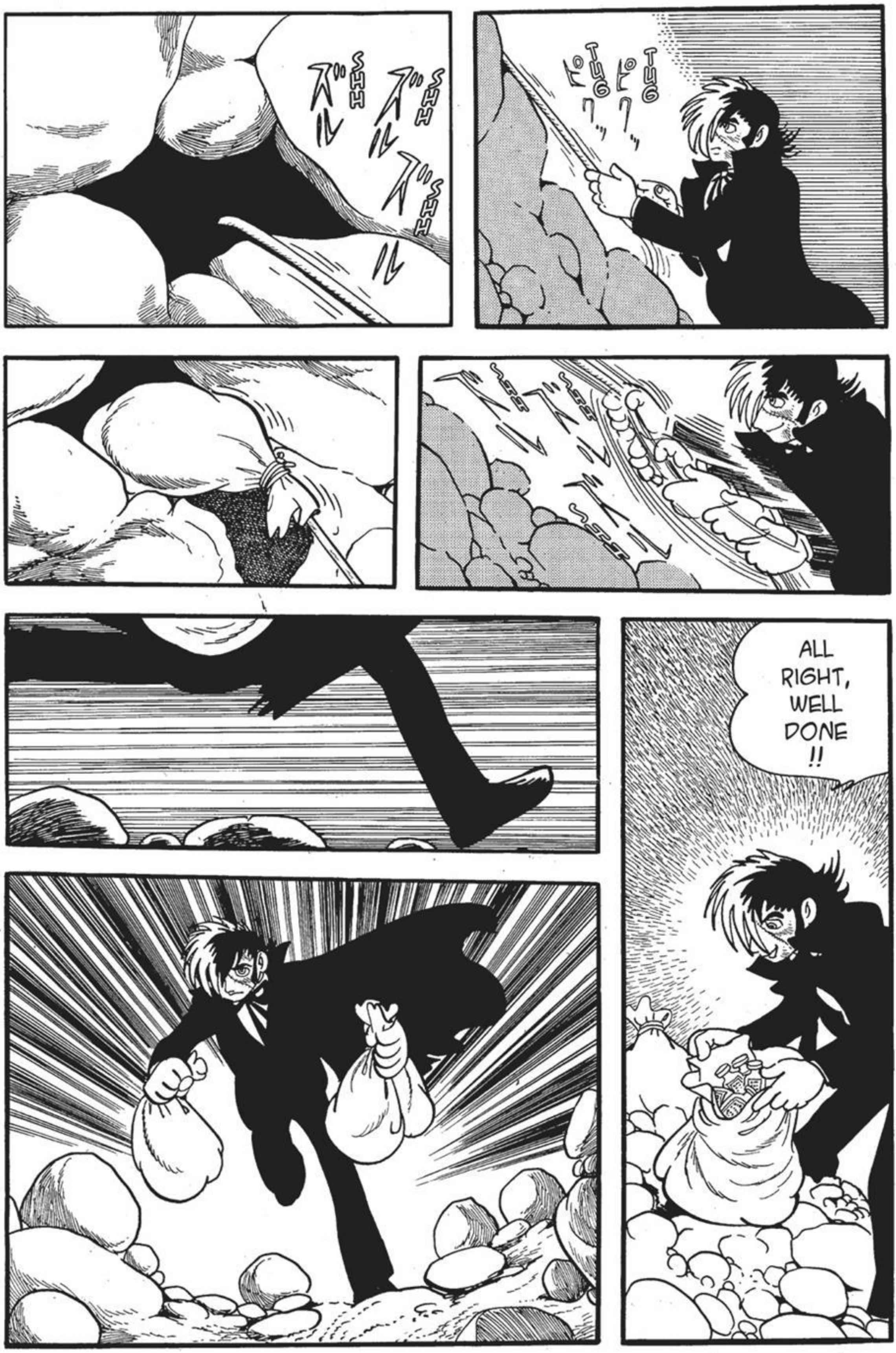

HE'S A DOCTOR, BUT HE'S AFRAID FOR HIS OWN LIFE!
STILL, TAKING JUST JUN BECAUSE HIS PARENTS ARE RICH...
THE DIRTY DEVIL!
WELL, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.
THAT'S RIGHT—I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE!
EVEN IF IT MEANS MY LIFE...
BUT IF I MAKE IT OUT ALIVE...
I'LL SPIT IN THAT DOCTOR'S FACE.
CARRY ME!
FORGET IT!
IF YOU TAKE THAT TONE WITH ME AGAIN, I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU BEHIND!
YEAH? YOU CREEPY PLASTIC MODEL!

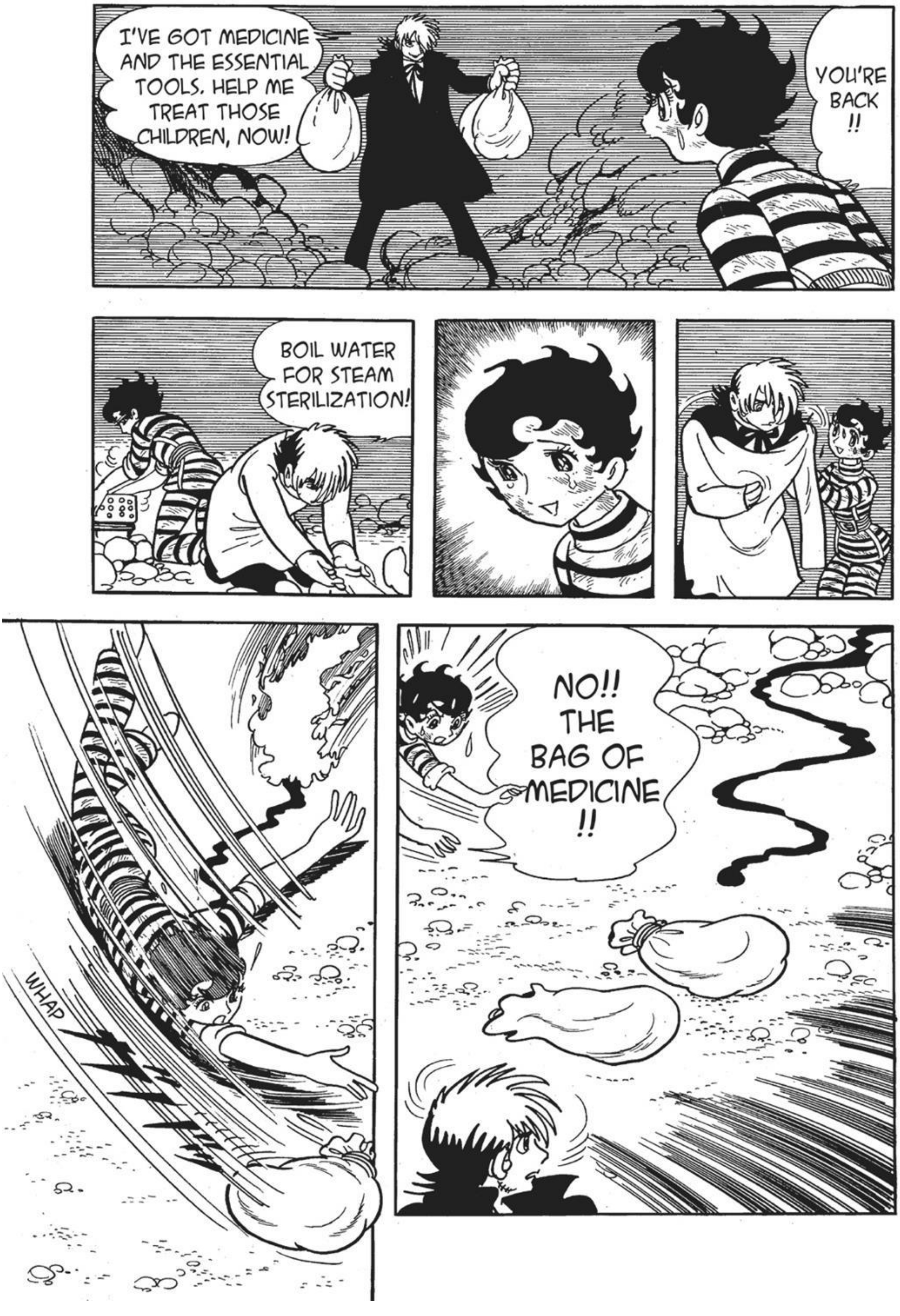

TAKE ME, OR DAD WON'T PAY YOU, STUPID-HEAD!
UGH, I'M TIRED.
IT'S THE BUS DRIVER!
IS HE DEAD?
WANT TO END UP LIKE HIM?
NO!
THEN WALK.
DEAD END...
BUT THERE'S A FAINT DRAFT OF FRESH AIR.
WHERE FROM?

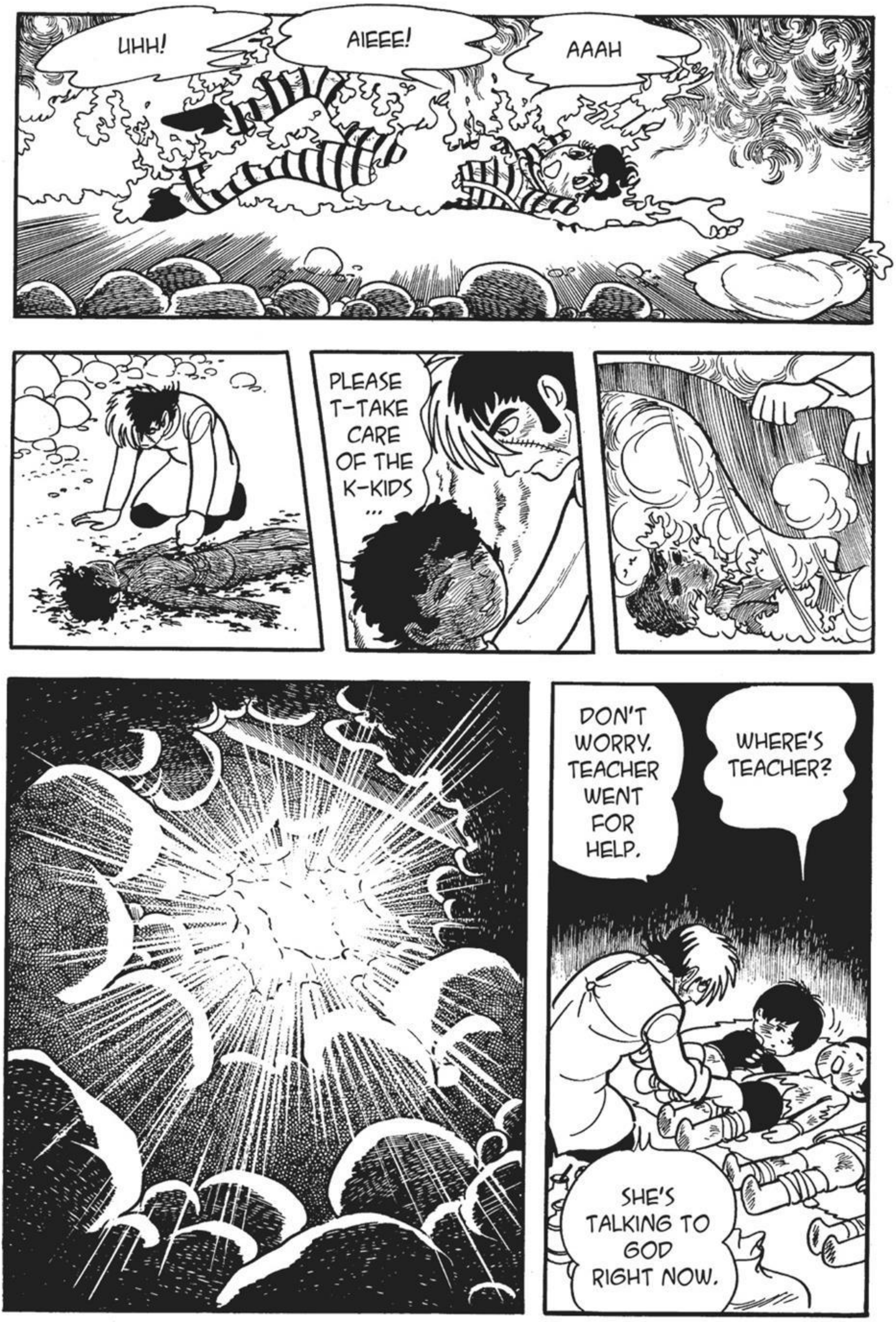

I COULD NEVER GET THROUGH HERE, BUT YOU CAN.
NOW, THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I BROUGHT YOU ALONG.
HERE!
GO ON!
IT'S SCARY! I DON'T WANNA, I WON'T!
NO !!
NOOOO!!
SLAP
SLAP
YOU SPOILED LITTLE BRAT!
WAAAAH!


LISTEN UP. THIS IS A LIST OF THE DRUGS AND EQUIPMENT I NEED. WHEN YOU GET THROUGH, GIVE THIS TO THE PEOPLE OUT THERE.
HAVE THEM ATTACH THE BAG OF TOOLS TO THIS ROPE I'M TYING TO YOU. I SAVED YOU FOR NO OTHER REASON.
GOT IT?
...
TELL ME THAT YOU PROMISE!
WAAAH!
I PROMISE!
ALL RIGHT, GET IN THERE!
AND HURRY!

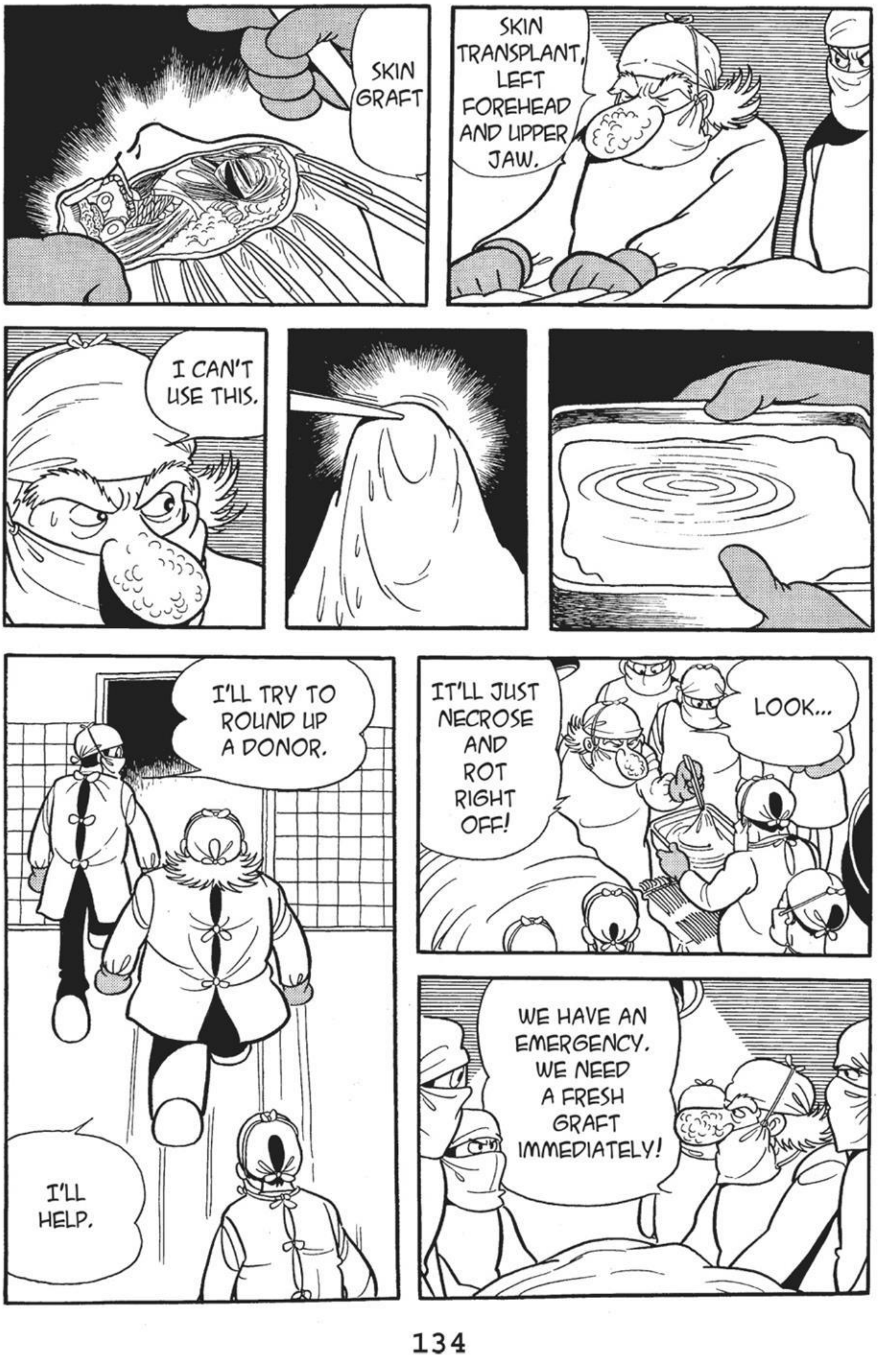

...
ズル ズル
SHH SHH
ピタッ
HALT
HE STOPPED. ANOTHER DEAD END?
ズル
SHH
PHEW ...
THE ROPE'S MOVING FASTER! HE MADE IT THROUGH.
STOPPED AGAIN ...

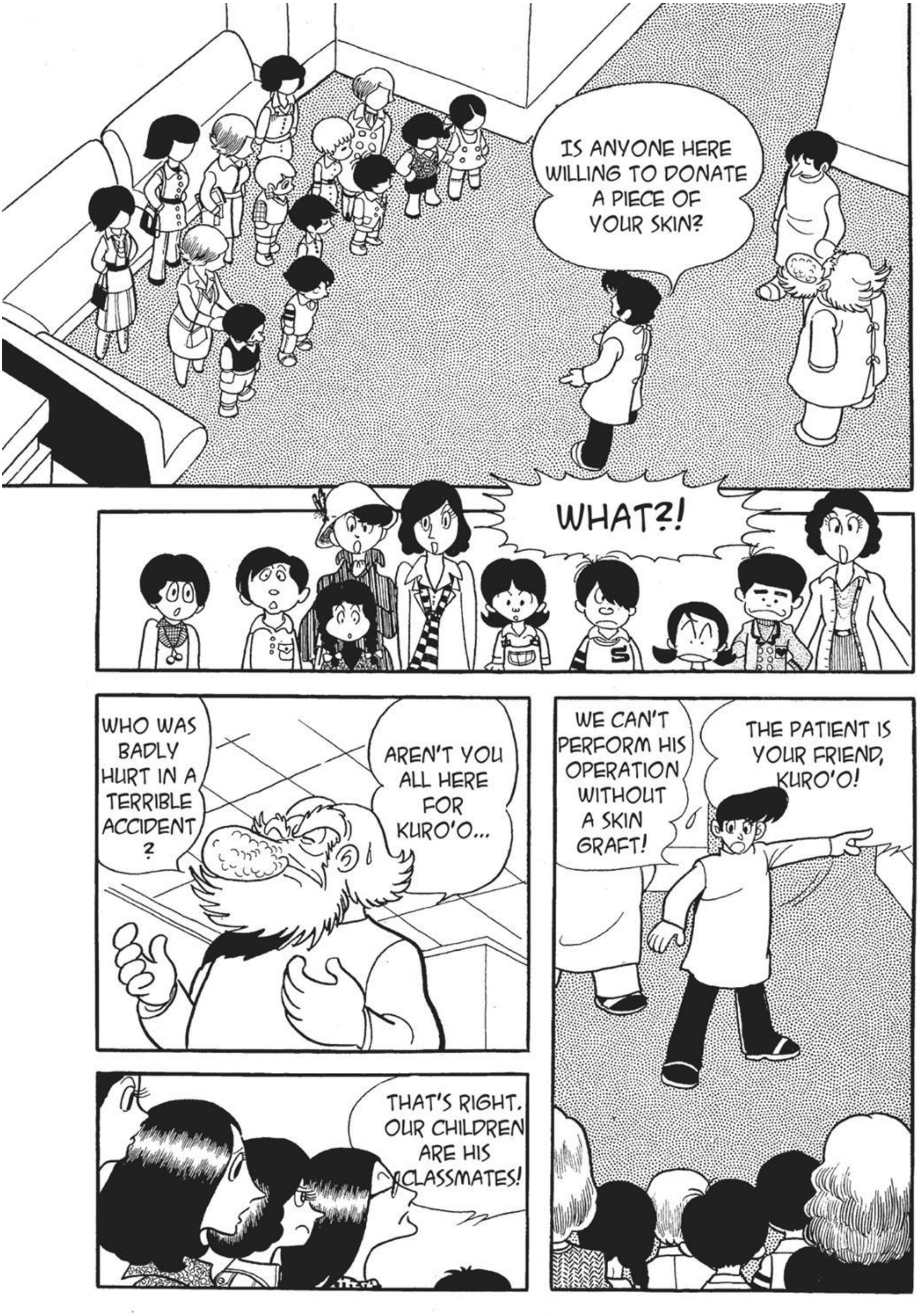

TUG ピクッ
TUG ピクッ
SHH ズル
SHH ズル
SHH ズル
SHH ズル
SHH ズル
SHH ズル
ALL RIGHT, WELL DONE !!

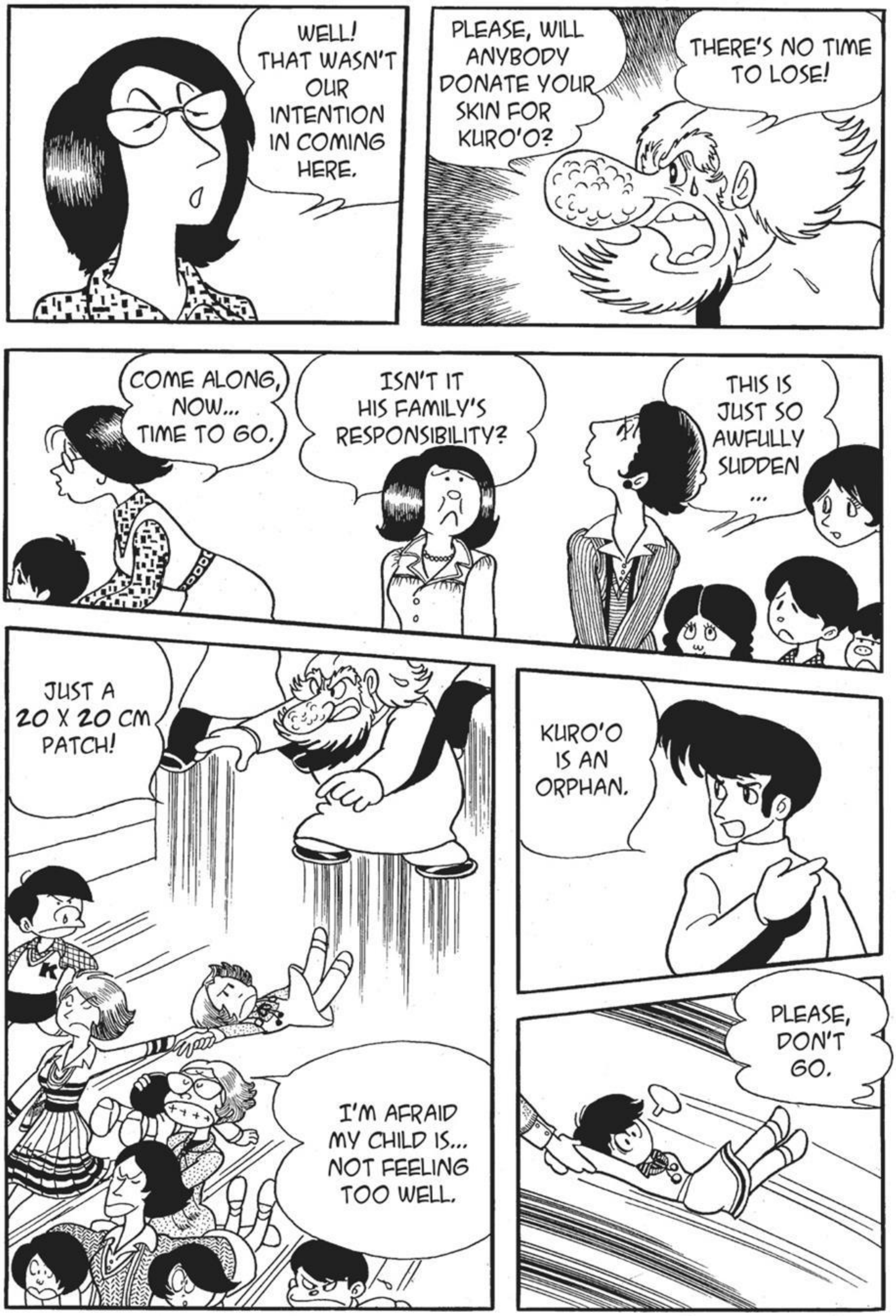

I'VE GOT MEDICINE AND THE ESSENTIAL TOOLS. HELP ME TREAT THOSE CHILDREN, NOW!
YOU'RE BACK !!
BOIL WATER FOR STEAM STERILIZATION!
WHAP
NO!! THE BAG OF MEDICINE !!

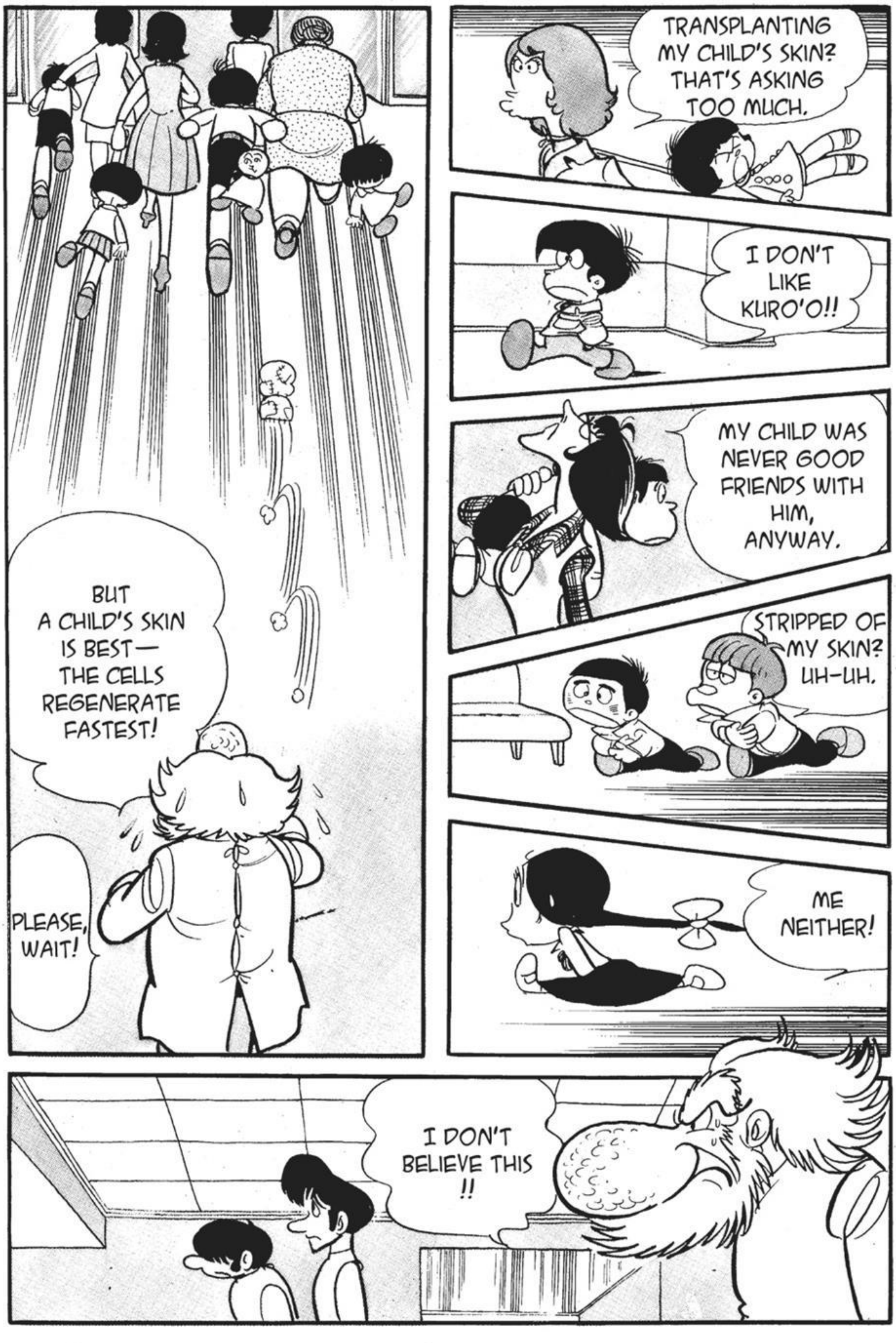

AAAH
AIEEE!
UHH!
PLEASE T-TAKE CARE OF THE K-KIDS ...
WHERE'S TEACHER?
DON'T WORRY. TEACHER WENT FOR HELP.
SHE'S TALKING TO GOD RIGHT NOW.

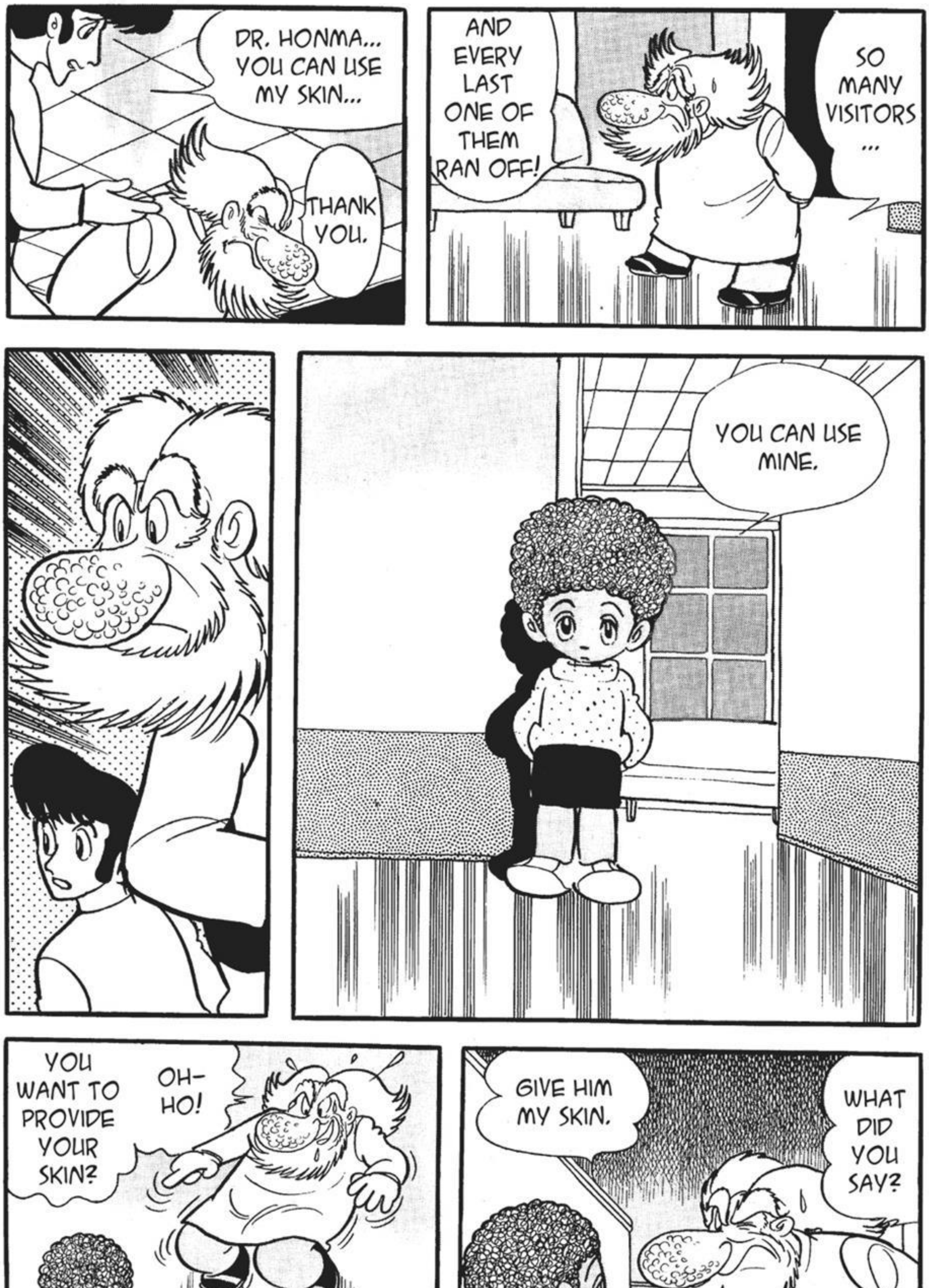
WHERE ART THOU, FRIEND?

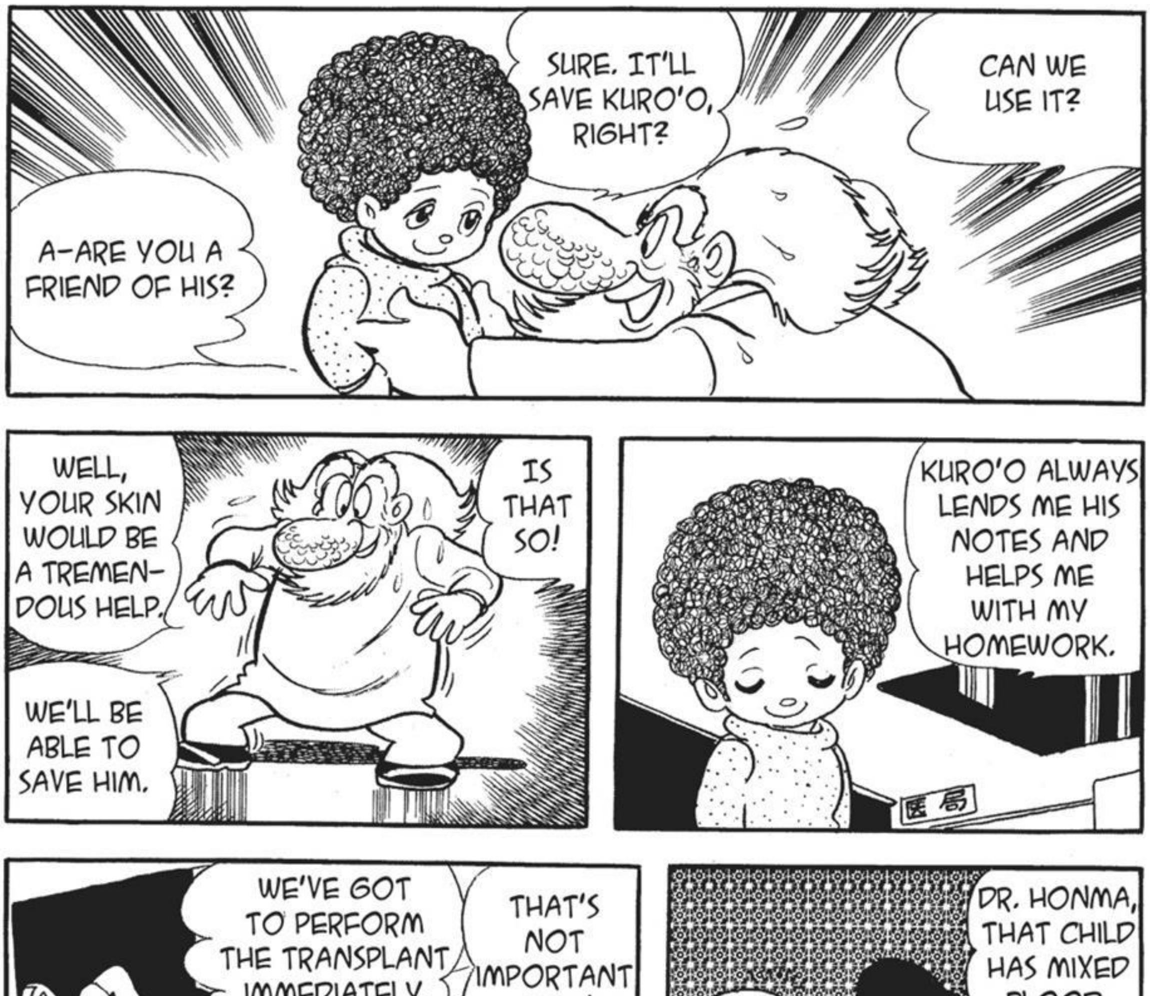

SKIN GRAFT
SKIN TRANSPLANT, LEFT FOREHEAD AND UPPER JAW.
I CAN'T USE THIS.
LOOK...
IT'LL JUST NECROSE AND ROT RIGHT OFF!
WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY. WE NEED A FRESH GRAFT IMMEDIATELY!
I'LL TRY TO ROUND UP A DONOR.
I'LL HELP.

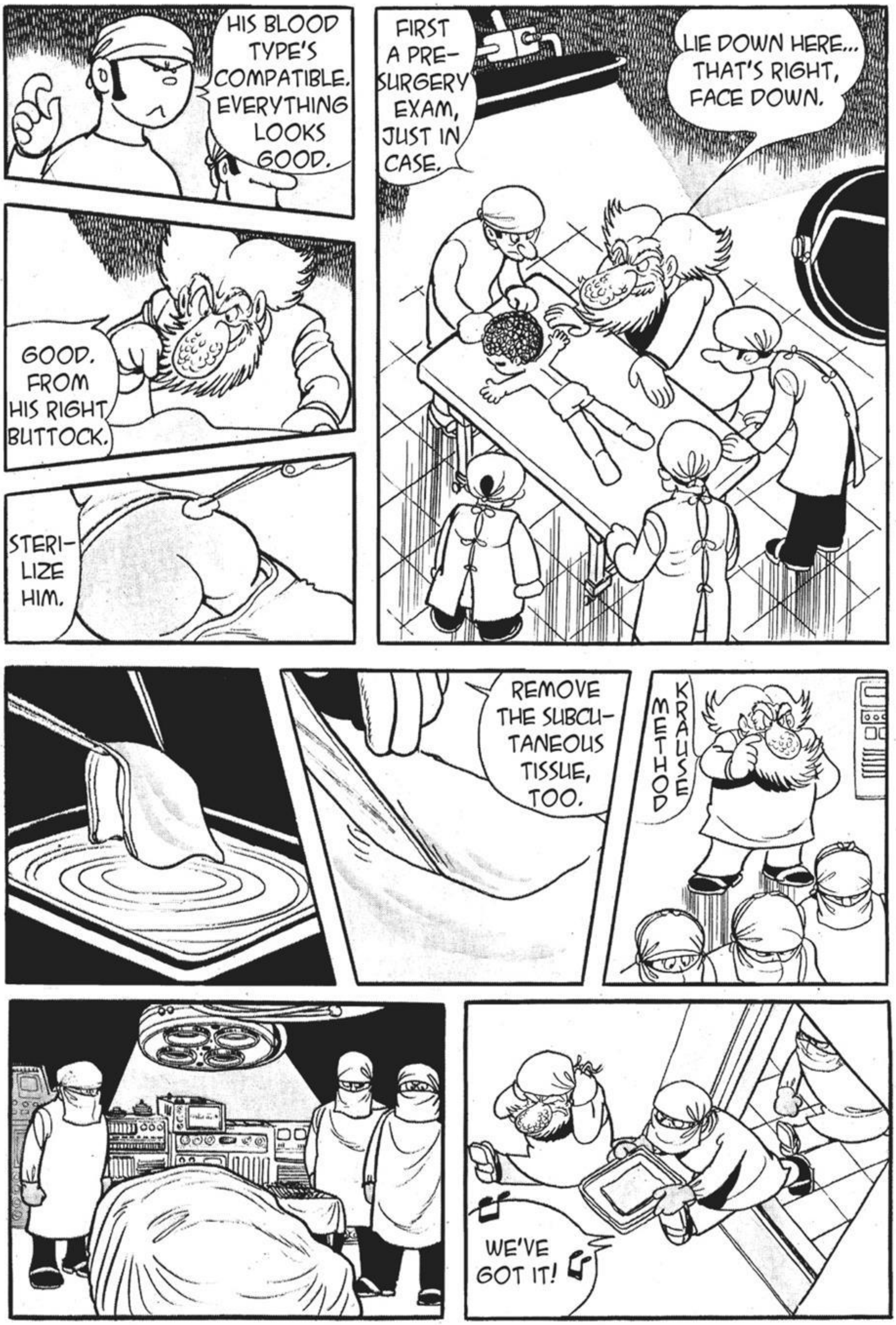

IS ANYONE HERE WILLING TO DONATE A PIECE OF YOUR SKIN?
WHAT?!
AREN'T YOU ALL HERE FOR KURO'O...
WHO WAS BADLY HURT IN A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT?
THAT'S RIGHT. OUR CHILDREN ARE HIS CLASSMATES!
THE PATIENT IS YOUR FRIEND, KURO'O!
WE CAN'T PERFORM HIS OPERATION WITHOUT A SKIN GRAFT!

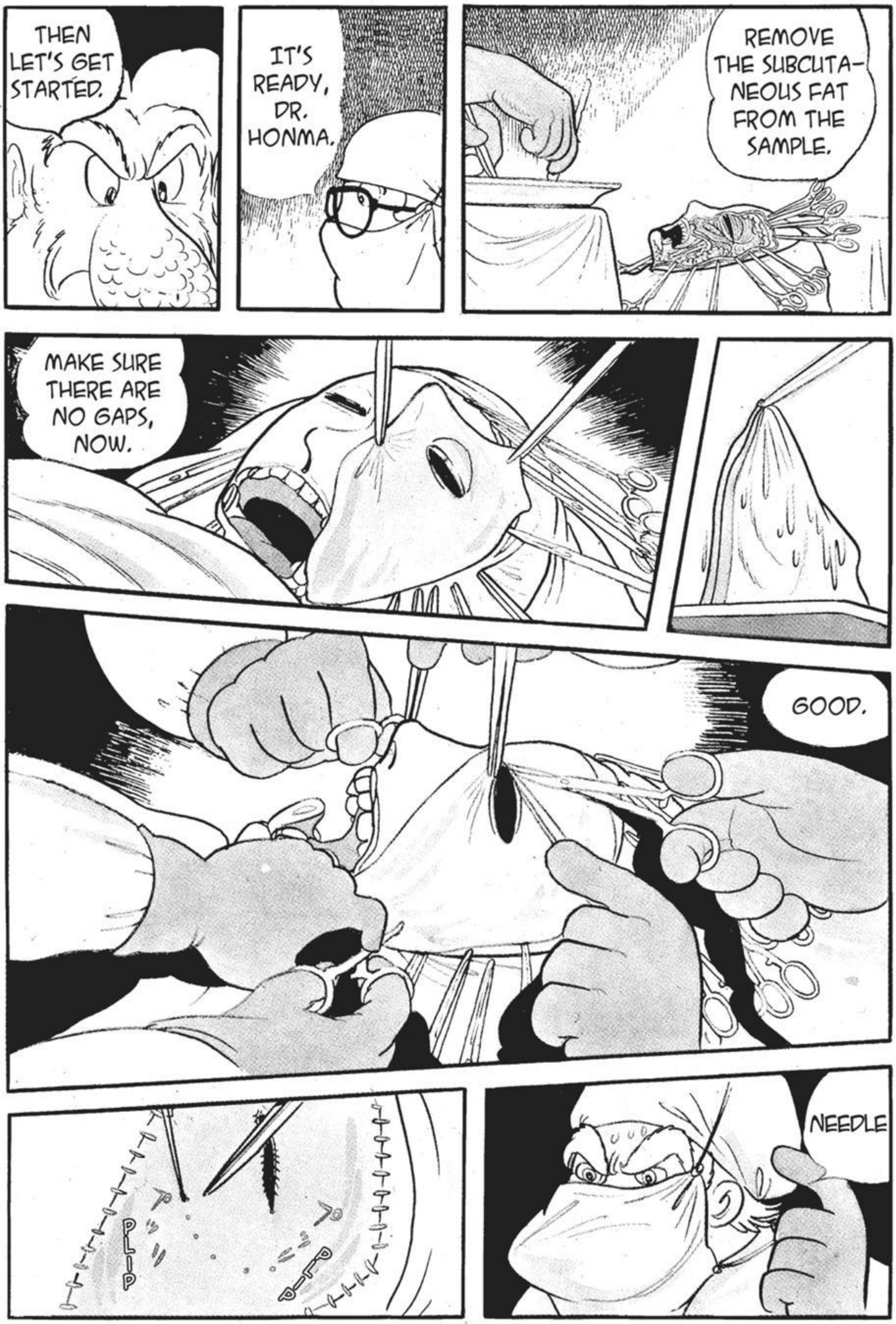

PLEASE, WILL ANYBODY DONATE YOUR SKIN FOR KURO'O?
THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!
WELL! THAT WASN'T OUR INTENTION IN COMING HERE.
THIS IS JUST SO AWFULLY SUDDEN ...
ISN'T IT HIS FAMILY'S RESPONSIBILITY?
COME ALONG, NOW... TIME TO GO.
KURO'O IS AN ORPHAN.
PLEASE, DON'T GO.
JUST A 20 X 20 CM PATCH!
I'M AFRAID MY CHILD IS... NOT FEELING TOO WELL.

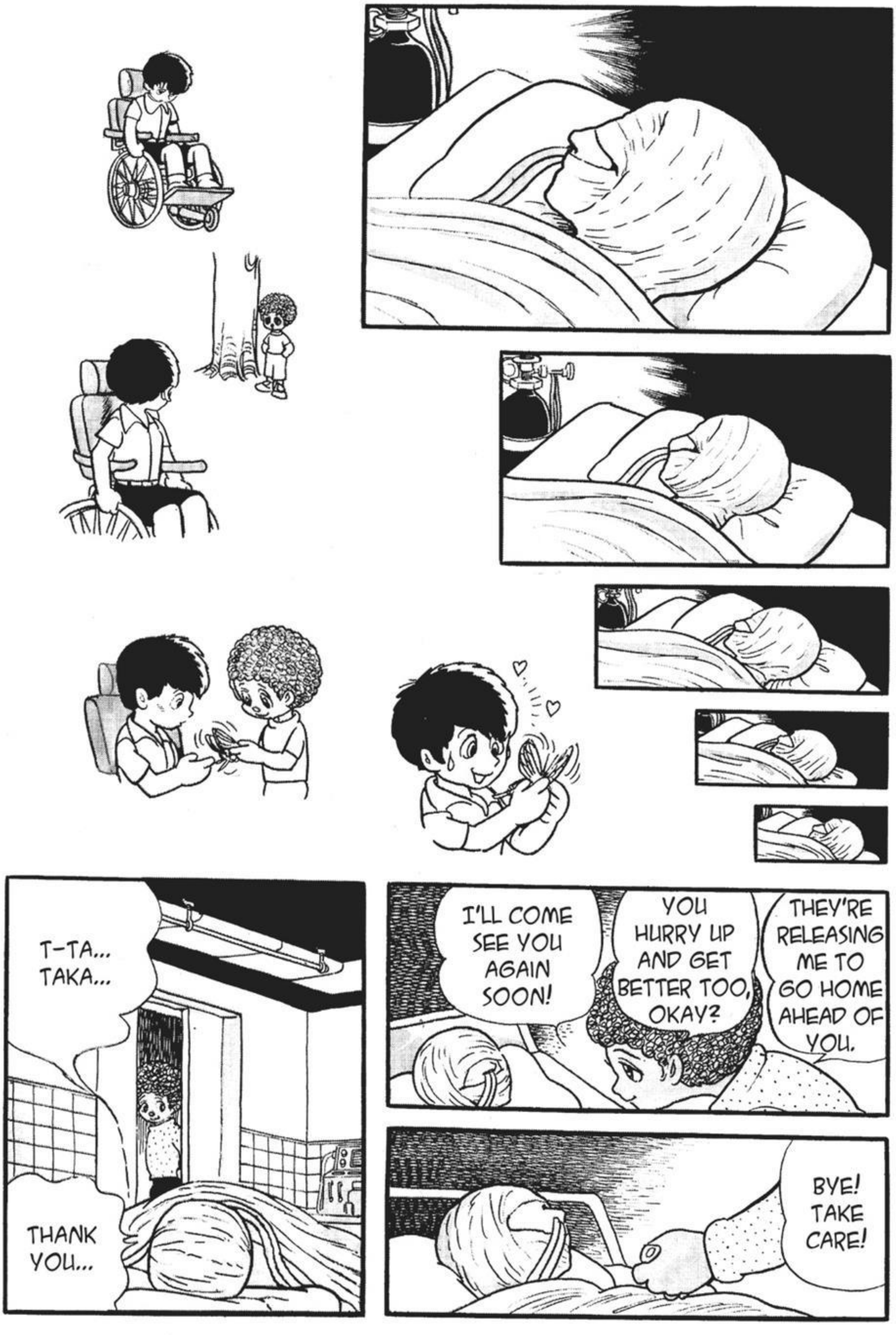

TRANSPLANTING MY CHILD'S SKIN? THAT'S ASKING TOO MUCH.
I DON'T LIKE KURO'O!!
MY CHILD WAS NEVER GOOD FRIENDS WITH HIM, ANYWAY.
STRIPPED OF MY SKIN? UH-UH.
ME NEITHER!
BUT A CHILD'S SKIN IS BEST— THE CELLS REGENERATE FASTEST!
PLEASE, WAIT!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS !!

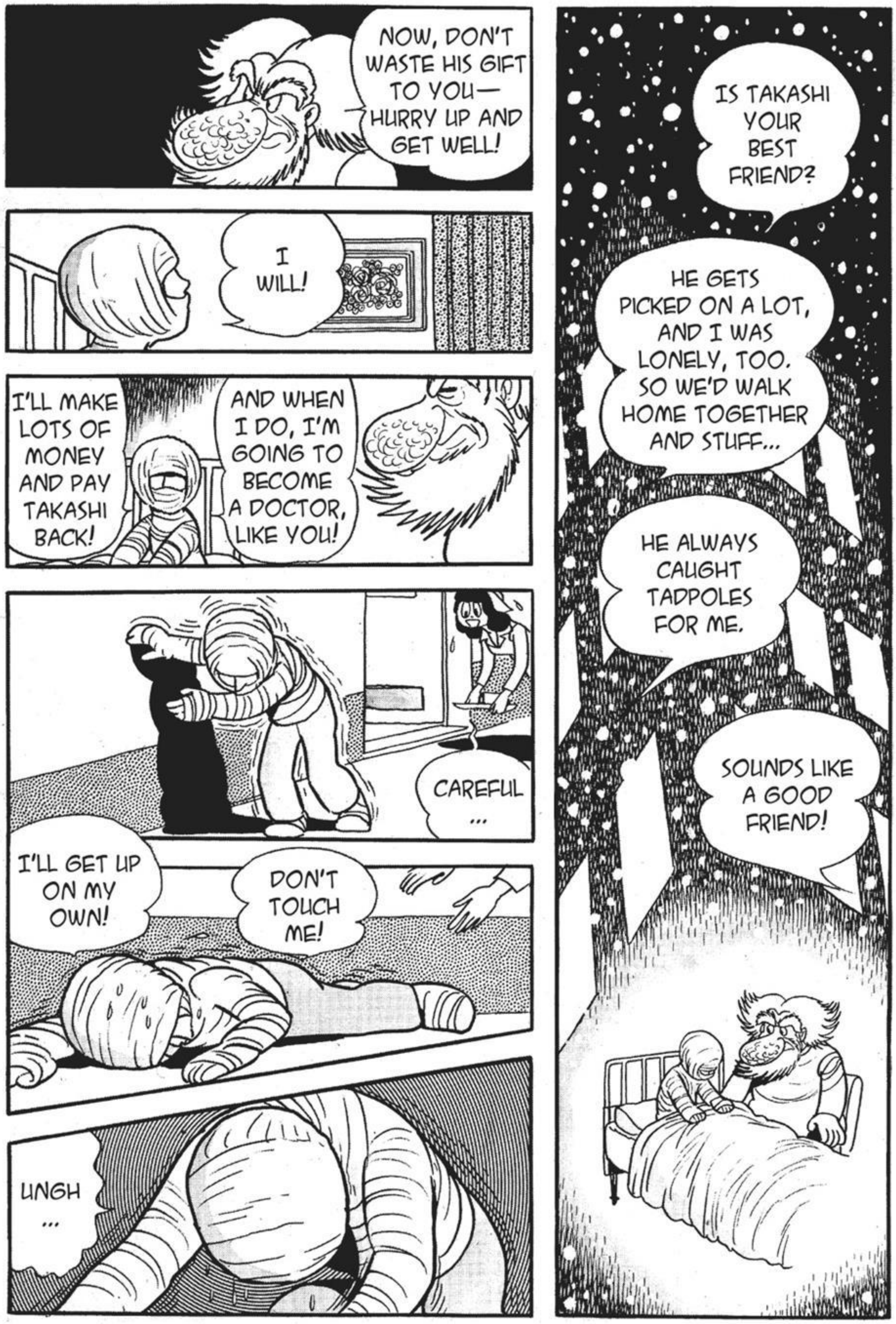

SO MANY VISITORS ...
AND EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM RAN OFF!
DR. HONMA... YOU CAN USE MY SKIN...
THANK YOU.
YOU CAN USE MINE.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
GIVE HIM MY SKIN.
OH-HO!
YOU WANT TO PROVIDE YOUR SKIN?
YEAH. I DON'T MIND.

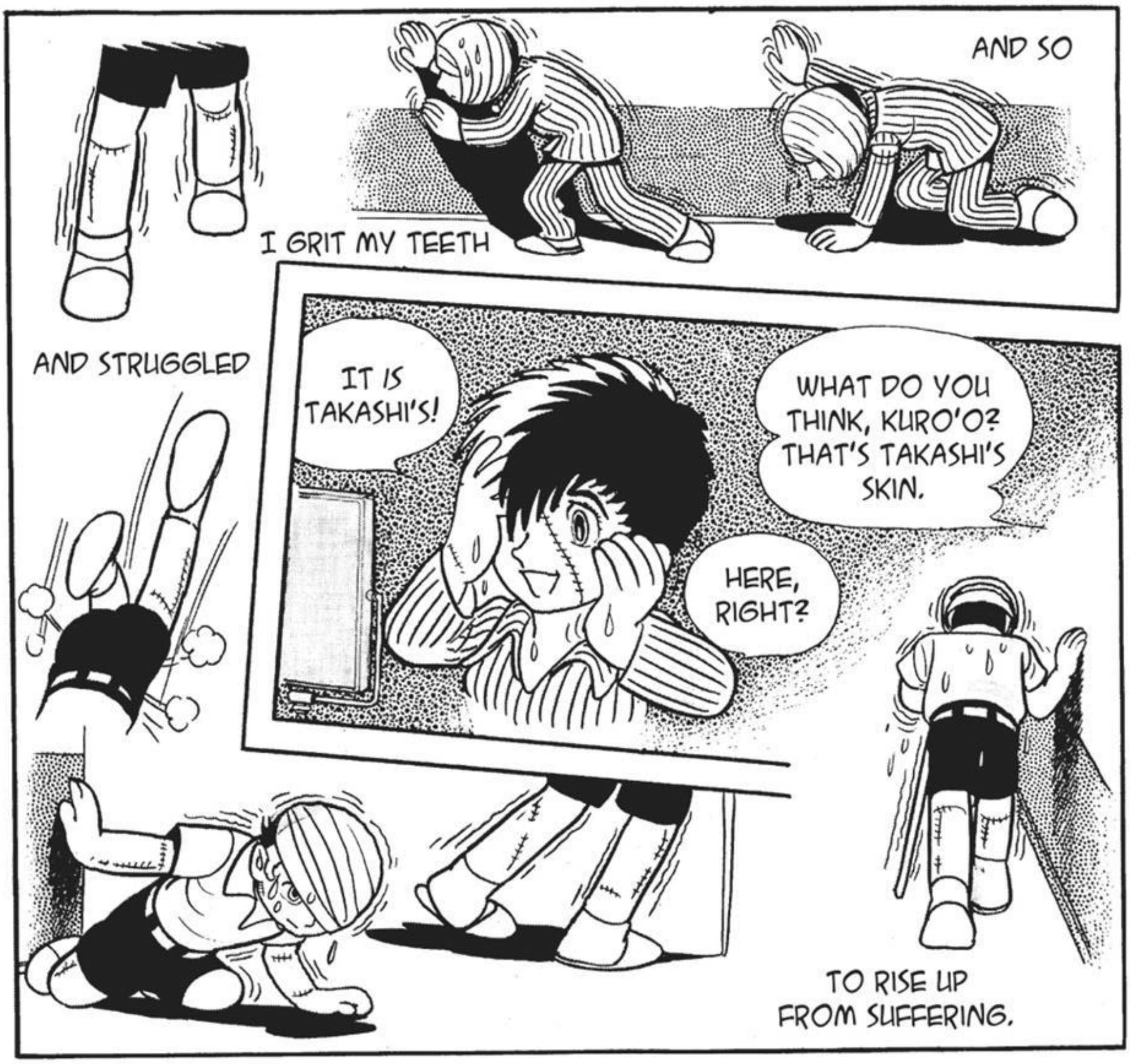

CAN WE USE IT?
SURE. IT'LL SAVE KURO'O, RIGHT?
A-ARE YOU A FRIEND OF HIS?
KURO'O ALWAYS LENDS ME HIS NOTES AND HELPS ME WITH MY HOMEWORK.
医局
IS THAT SO!
WELL, YOUR SKIN WOULD BE A TREMENDOUS HELP.
WE'LL BE ABLE TO SAVE HIM.
DR. HONMA, THAT CHILD HAS MIXED BLOOD.
HIS SKIN COLOR IS TOO DIFFERENT.
IF WE USED HIS SKIN,
THERE'D BE A... MARKED CONTRAST.
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW!
WE'VE GOT TO PERFORM THE TRANSPLANT IMMEDIATELY.
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

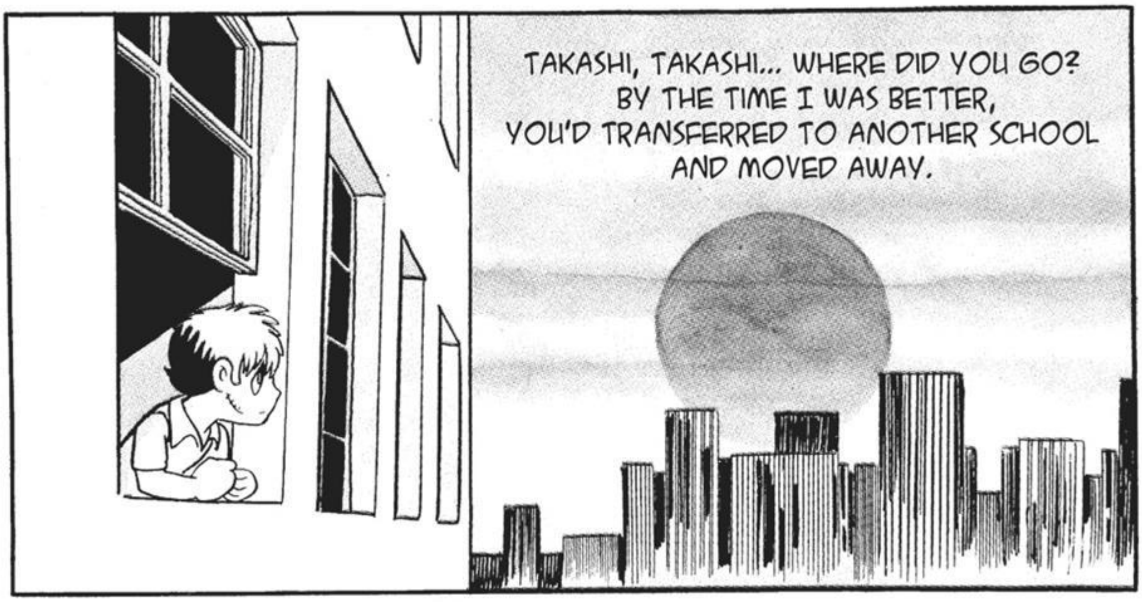

HIS BLOOD TYPE'S COMPATIBLE. EVERYTHING LOOKS GOOD.
FIRST A PRE-SURGERY EXAM, JUST IN CASE.
LIE DOWN HERE... THAT'S RIGHT, FACE DOWN.
GOOD. FROM HIS RIGHT BUTTOCK.
STERILIZE HIM.
REMOVE THE SUBCUTANEOUS TISSUE, TOO.
KRAUSE METHOD
WE'VE GOT IT!


THEN LET'S GET STARTED.
IT'S READY, DR. HONMA.
REMOVE THE SUBCUTANEOUS FAT FROM THE SAMPLE.
MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO GAPS, NOW.
GOOD.
PLIP
PLIP
NEEDLE

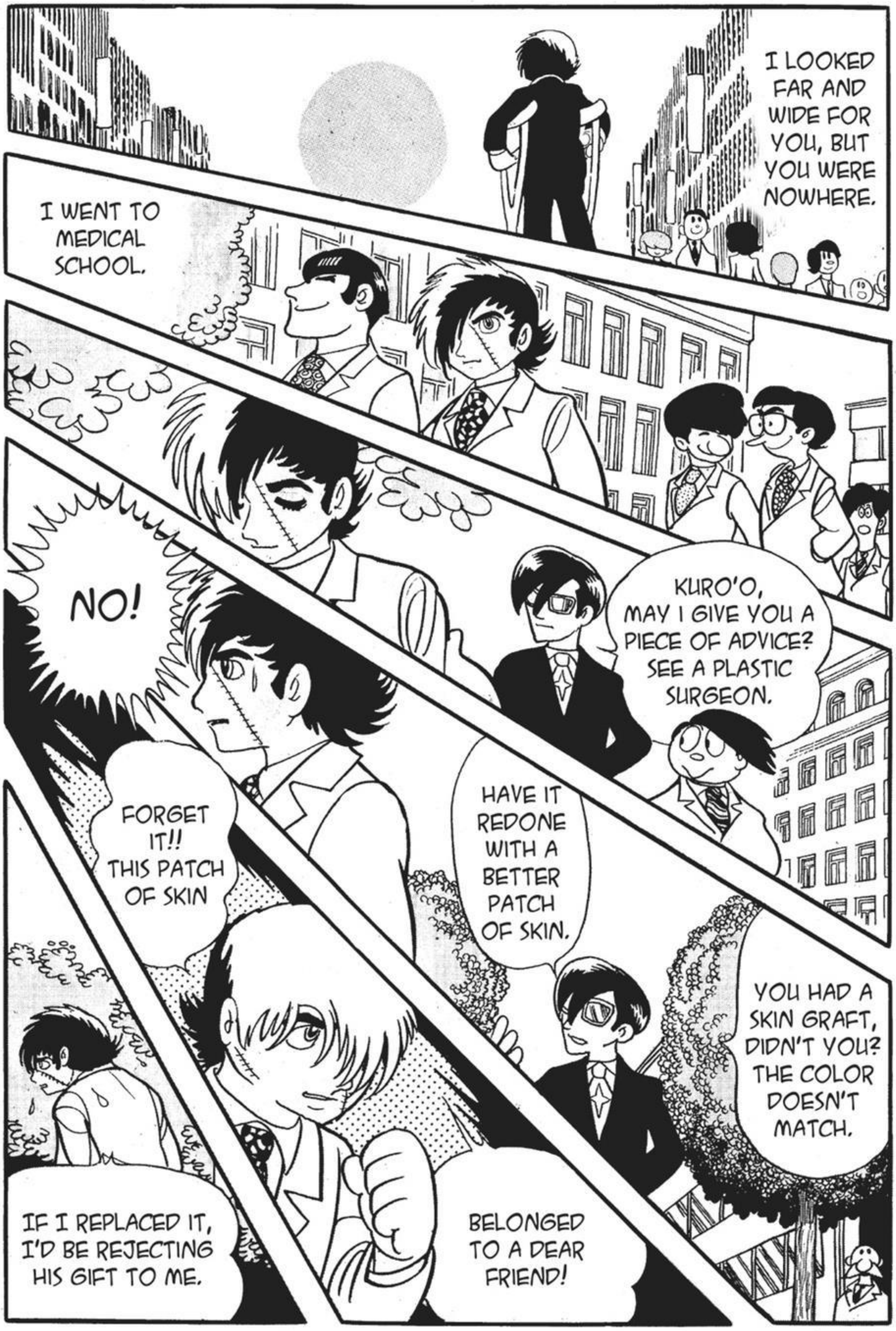

THEY'RE RELEASING ME TO GO HOME AHEAD OF YOU.
YOU HURRY UP AND GET BETTER TOO, OKAY?
I'LL COME SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!
BYE! TAKE CARE!
T-TA... TAKA...
THANK YOU...

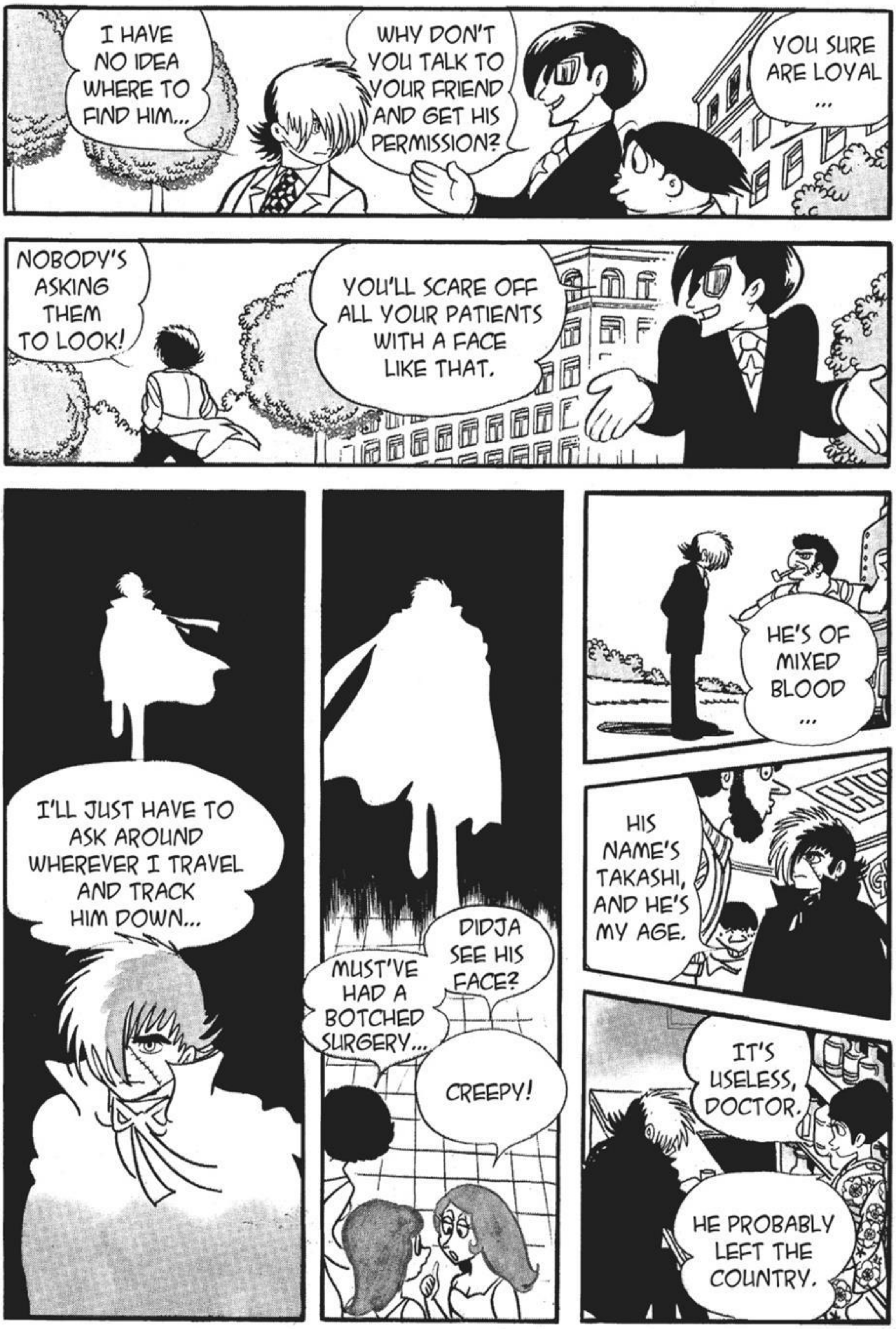

NOW, DON'T WASTE HIS GIFT TO YOU— HURRY UP AND GET WELL!
I WILL!
I'LL MAKE LOTS OF MONEY AND PAY TAKASHI BACK!
AND WHEN I DO, I'M GOING TO BECOME A DOCTOR, LIKE YOU!
CAREFUL ...
I'LL GET UP ON MY OWN!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
UNGH ...
IS TAKASHI YOUR BEST FRIEND?
HE GETS PICKED ON A LOT, AND I WAS LONELY, TOO. SO WE'D WALK HOME TOGETHER AND STUFF...
HE ALWAYS CAUGHT TADPOLES FOR ME.
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD FRIEND!

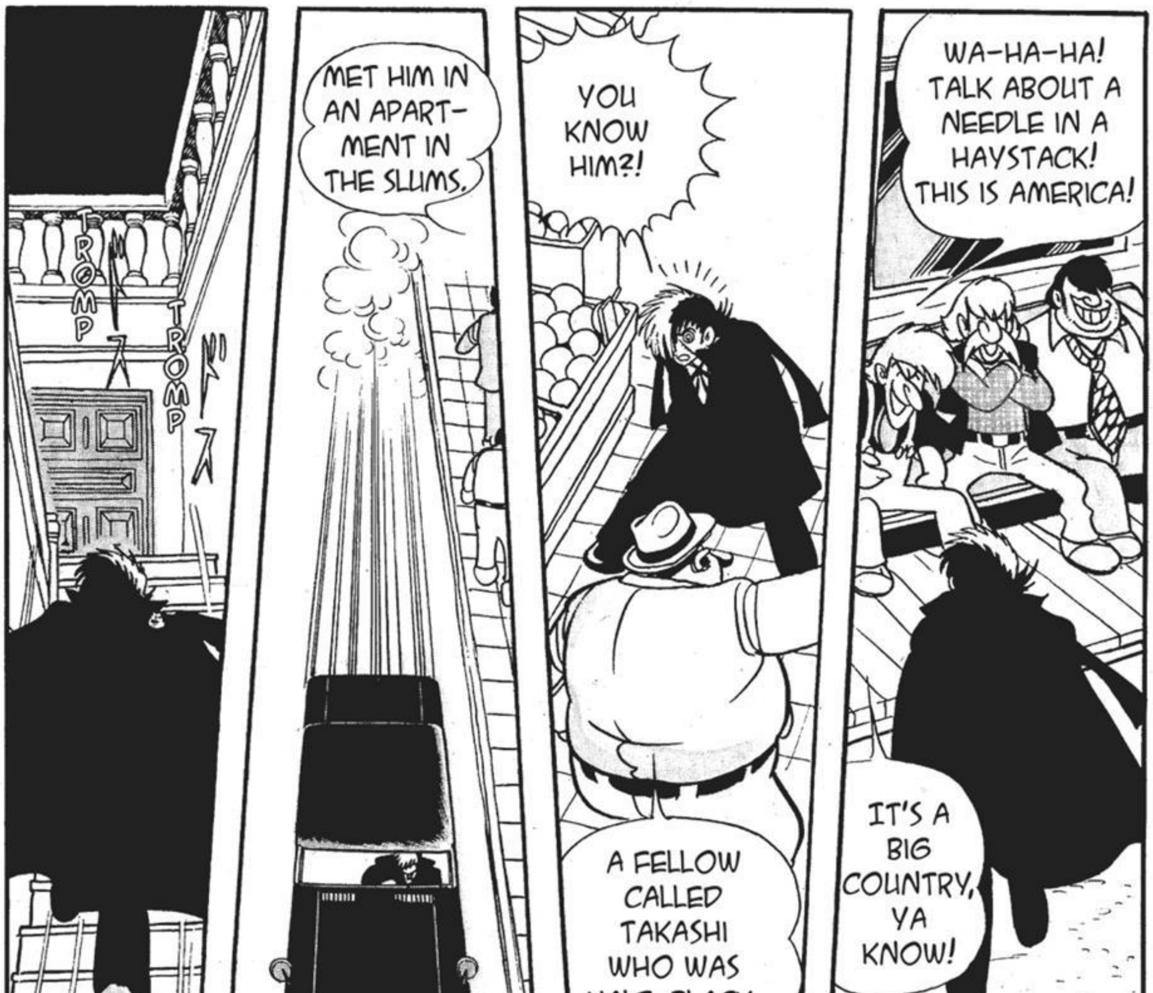

AND SO
I GRIT MY TEETH
AND STRUGGLED
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KURO'O? THAT'S TAKASHI'S SKIN.
HERE, RIGHT?
IT IS TAKASHI'S!
TO RISE UP FROM SUFFERING.

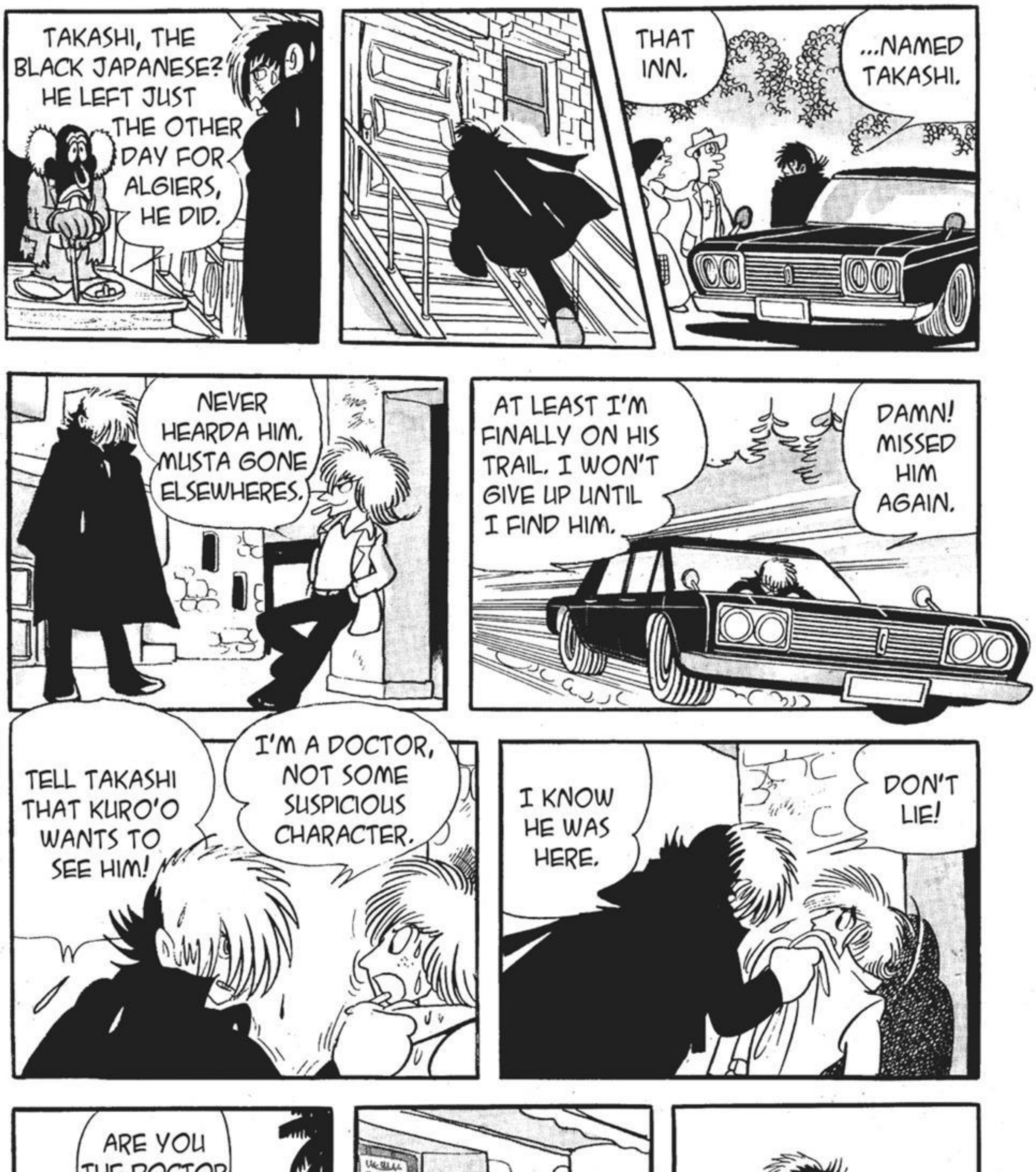

TAKASHI, TAKASHI... WHERE DID YOU GO? BY THE TIME I WAS BETTER, YOU'D TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL AND MOVED AWAY.

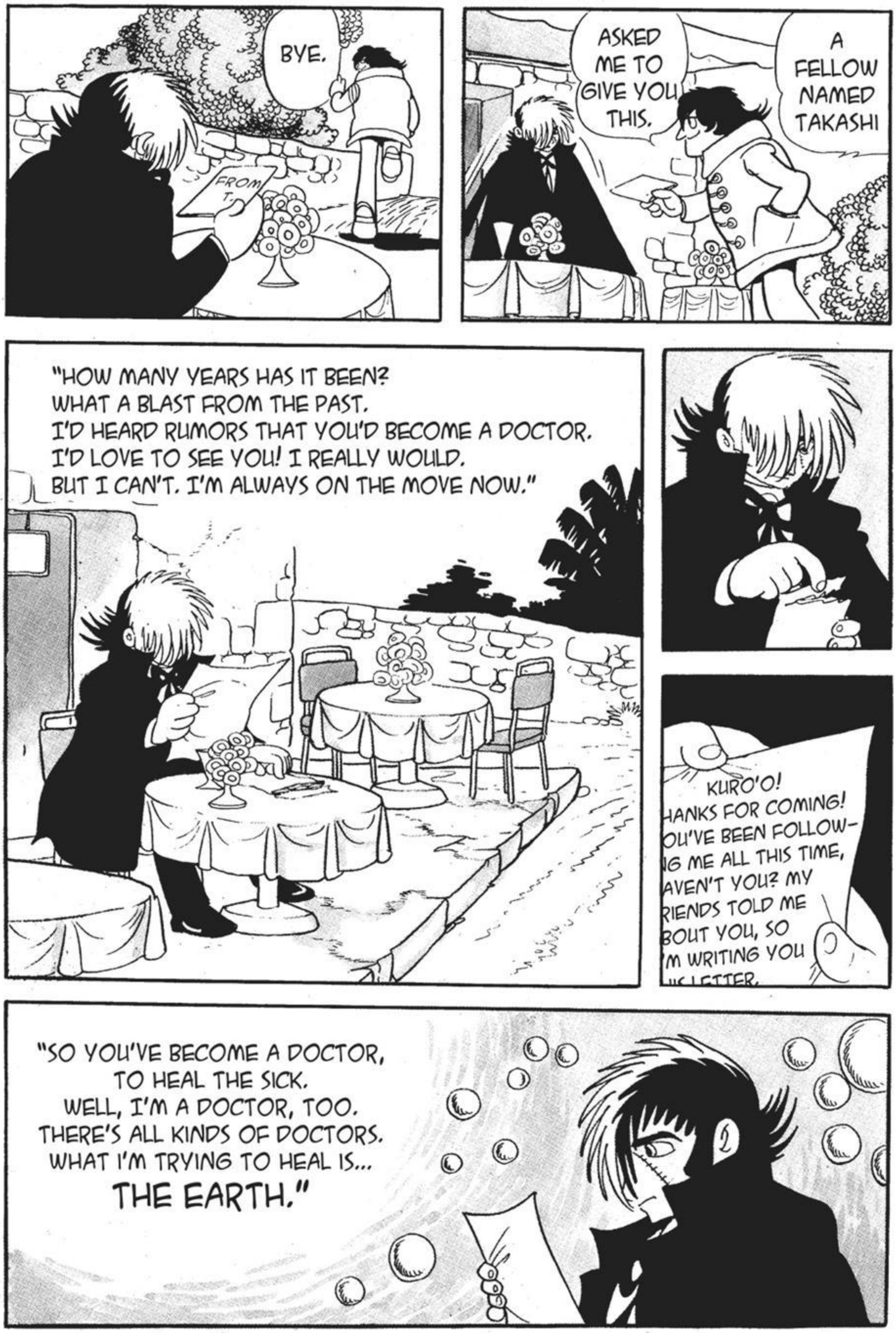
NOTE: "KURO" MEANS *BLACK* AND "O" IS A COMMON ENDING FOR MALE NAMES; IN OTHER WORDS, *BLACK JACK*.

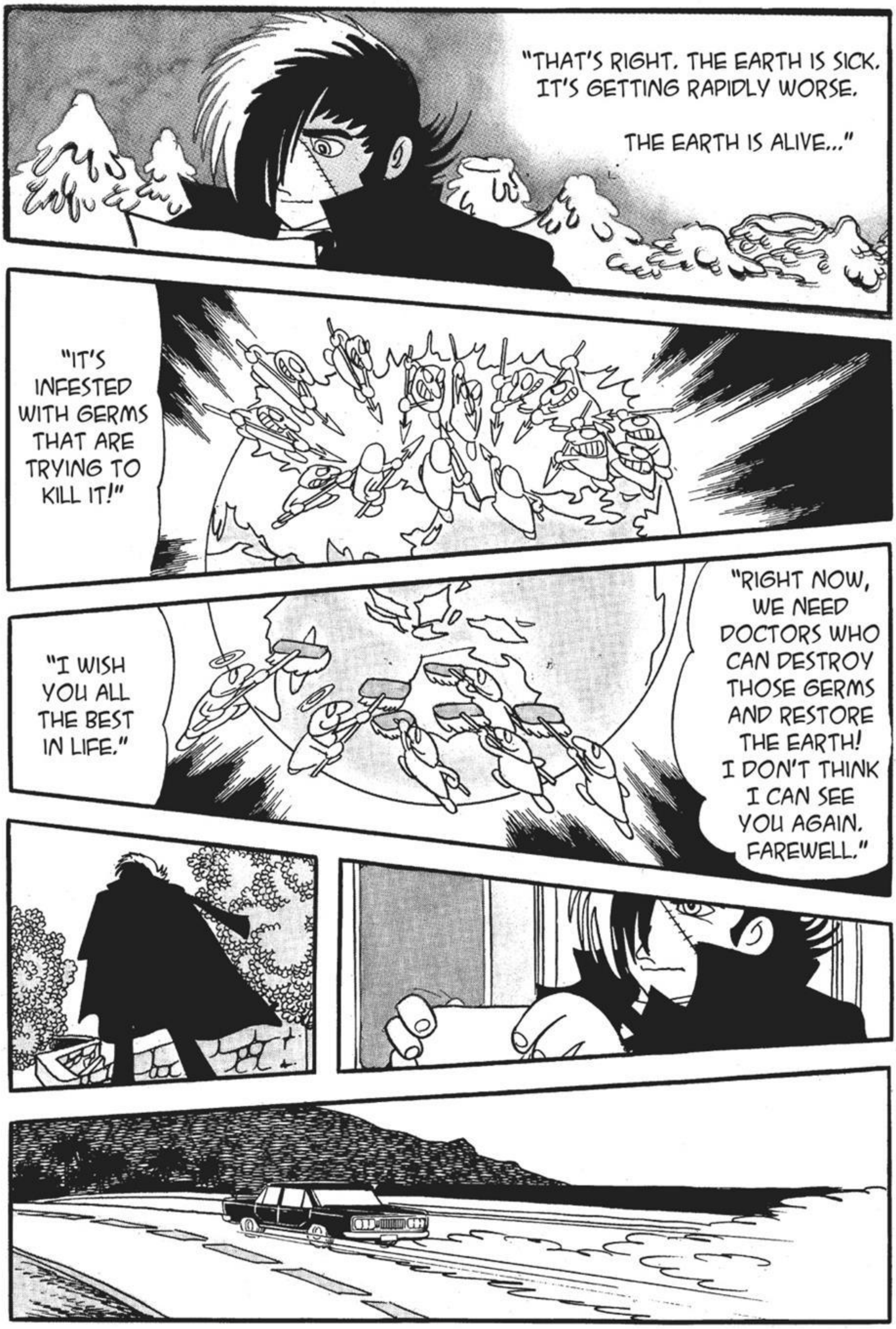

I LOOKED FAR AND WIDE FOR YOU, BUT YOU WERE NOWHERE.
I WENT TO MEDICAL SCHOOL.
KURO'O, MAY I GIVE YOU A PIECE OF ADVICE? SEE A PLASTIC SURGEON.
NO!
YOU HAD A SKIN GRAFT, DIDN'T YOU? THE COLOR DOESN'T MATCH.
HAVE IT REDONE WITH A BETTER PATCH OF SKIN.
FORGET IT!! THIS PATCH OF SKIN
BELONGED TO A DEAR FRIEND!
IF I REPLACED IT, I'D BE REJECTING HIS GIFT TO ME.

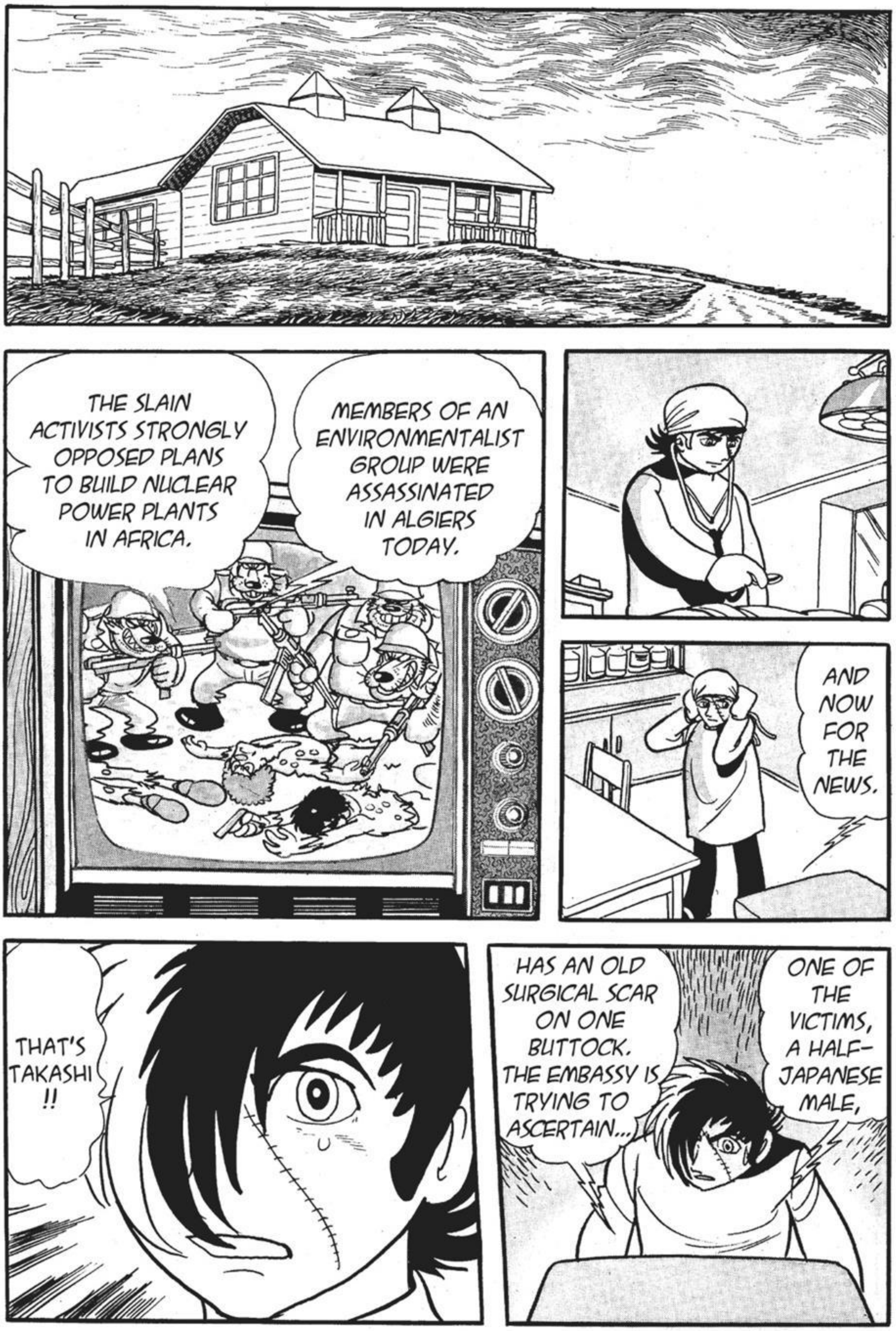

WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO YOUR FRIEND AND GET HIS PERMISSION?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO FIND HIM...
YOU SURE ARE LOYAL ...
YOU'LL SCARE OFF ALL YOUR PATIENTS WITH A FACE LIKE THAT.
NOBODY'S ASKING THEM TO LOOK!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO ASK AROUND WHEREVER I TRAVEL AND TRACK HIM DOWN...
DIDJA SEE HIS FACE?
MUST'VE HAD A BOTCHED SURGERY...
CREEPY!
HE'S OF MIXED BLOOD ...
HIS NAME'S TAKASHI, AND HE'S MY AGE.
IT'S USELESS, DOCTOR.
HE PROBABLY LEFT THE COUNTRY.

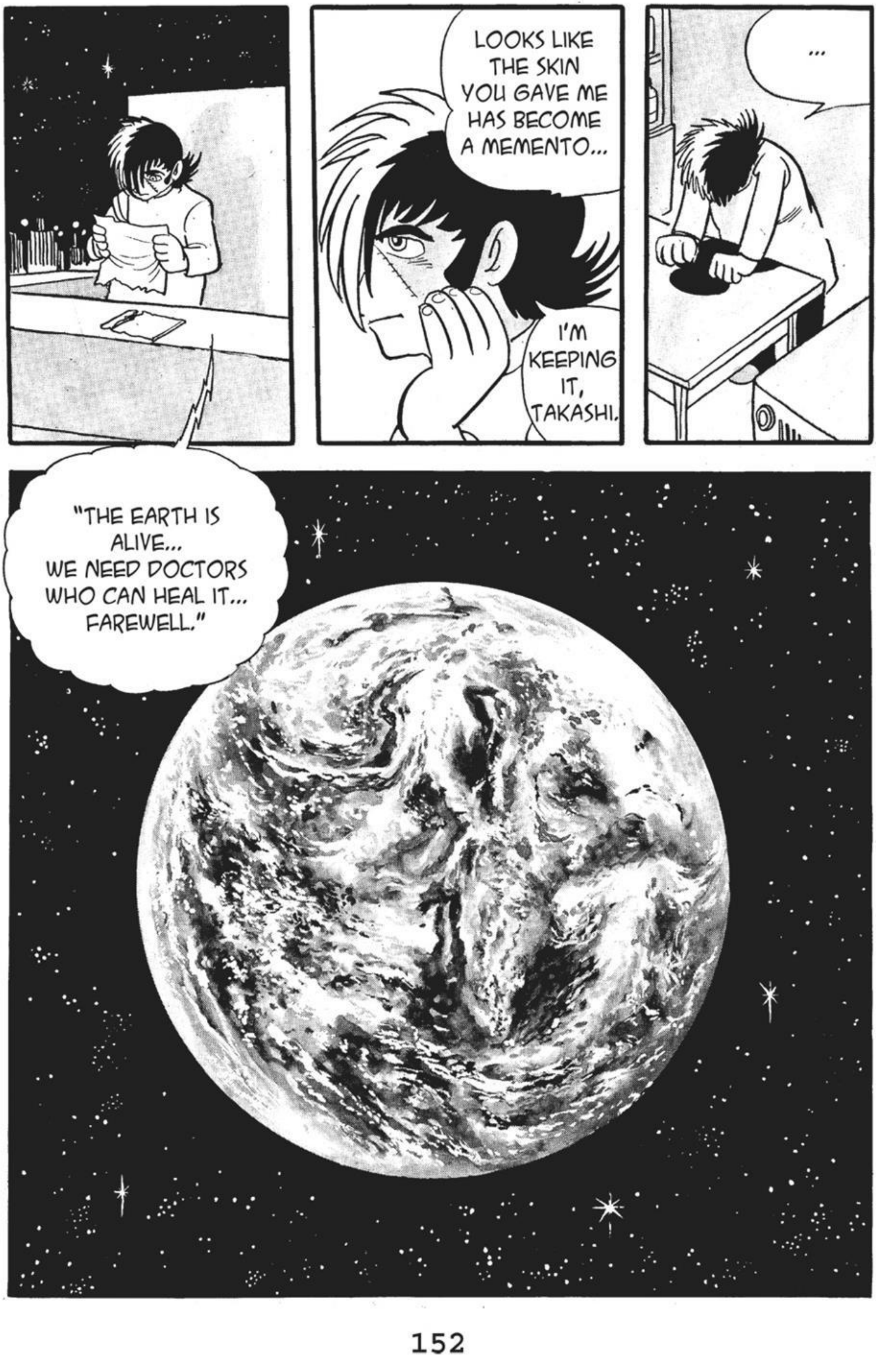

WA-HA-HA! TALK ABOUT A NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK! THIS IS AMERICA!
IT'S A BIG COUNTRY, YA KNOW!
A FELLOW CALLED TAKASHI WHO WAS HALF-BLACK, HALF-ASIAN...
YOU KNOW HIM?!
MET HIM IN AN APARTMENT IN THE SLUMS.
TROMP
ドス
TROMP
ドス
HERE?
YES, HIS NAME WAS TAKASHI.
HE MOVED TO SPAIN A MONTH AGO!
ROAR


TAKASHI, THE BLACK JAPANESE? HE LEFT JUST THE OTHER DAY FOR ALGIERS, HE DID.
THAT INN.
...NAMED TAKASHI.
NEVER HEARDA HIM. MUSTA GONE ELSEWHERES.
DAMN! MISSED HIM AGAIN.
AT LEAST I'M FINALLY ON HIS TRAIL. I WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL I FIND HIM.
TELL TAKASHI THAT KURO'O WANTS TO SEE HIM!
I'M A DOCTOR, NOT SOME SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER.
I KNOW HE WAS HERE.
DON'T LIE!
ARE YOU THE DOCTOR NAMED KURO'O?

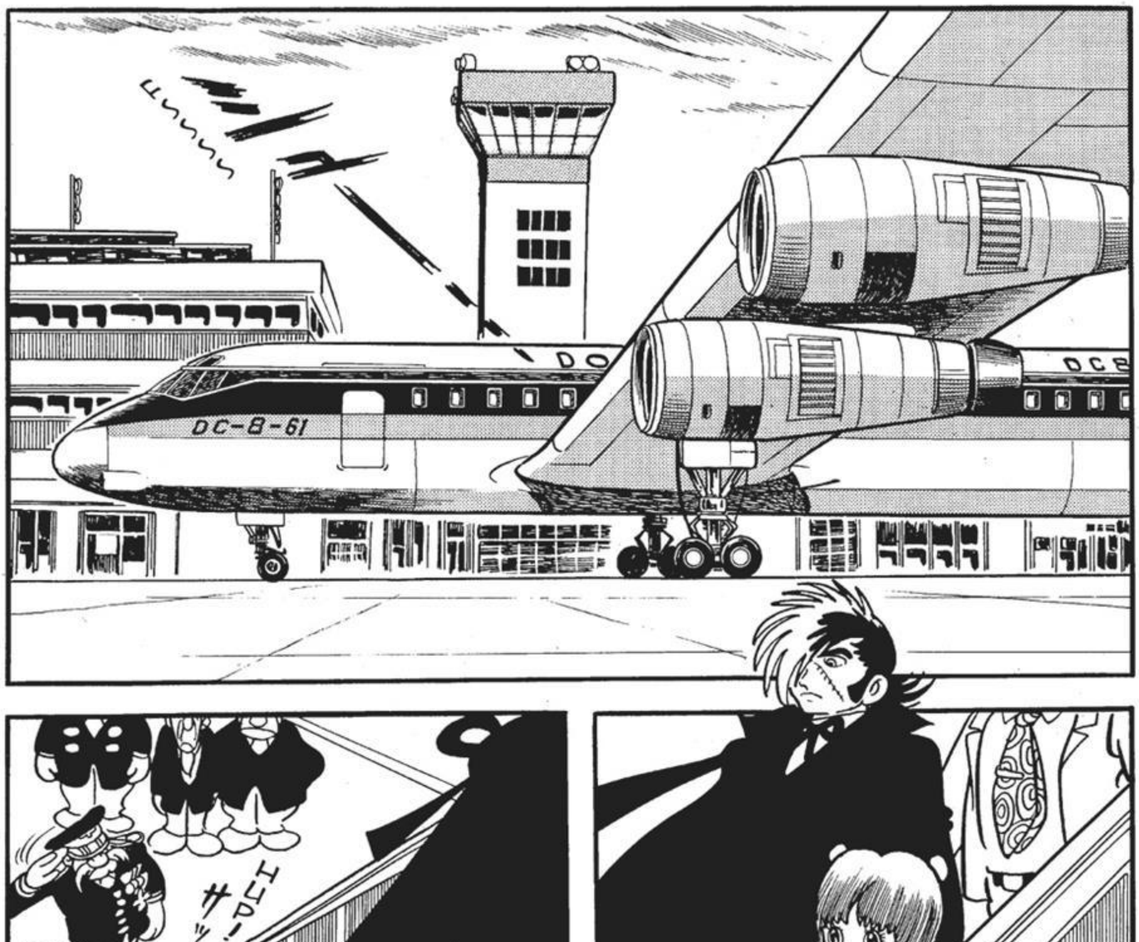

A FELLOW NAMED TAKASHI
ASKED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS.
BYE.
FROM T.
KURO'O!
HANKS FOR COMING!
OU'VE BEEN FOLLOW-
IG ME ALL THIS TIME,
AVEN'T YOU? MY
RIENDS TOLD ME
BOUT YOU, SO
'M WRITING YOU
IS LETTER.
"HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN? WHAT A BLAST FROM THE PAST. I'D HEARD RUMORS THAT YOU'D BECOME A DOCTOR. I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU! I REALLY WOULD. BUT I CAN'T. I'M ALWAYS ON THE MOVE NOW."
"SO YOU'VE BECOME A DOCTOR, TO HEAL THE SICK. WELL, I'M A DOCTOR, TOO. THERE'S ALL KINDS OF DOCTORS. WHAT I'M TRYING TO HEAL IS... THE EARTH."

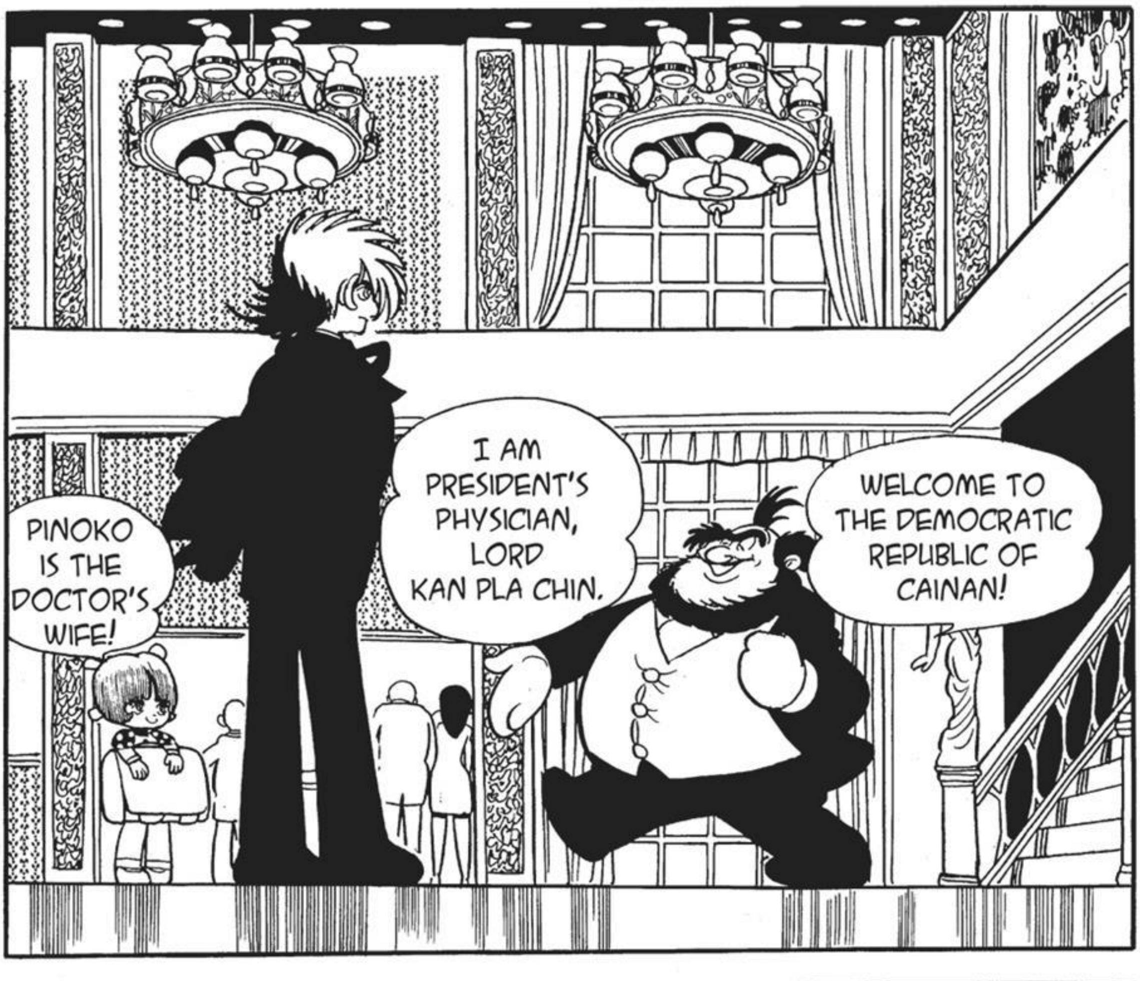

"THAT'S RIGHT. THE EARTH IS SICK. IT'S GETTING RAPIDLY WORSE.
THE EARTH IS ALIVE..."
"IT'S INFESTED WITH GERMS THAT ARE TRYING TO KILL IT!"
"RIGHT NOW, WE NEED DOCTORS WHO CAN DESTROY THOSE GERMS AND RESTORE THE EARTH! I DON'T THINK I CAN SEE YOU AGAIN. FAREWELL."
"I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST IN LIFE."

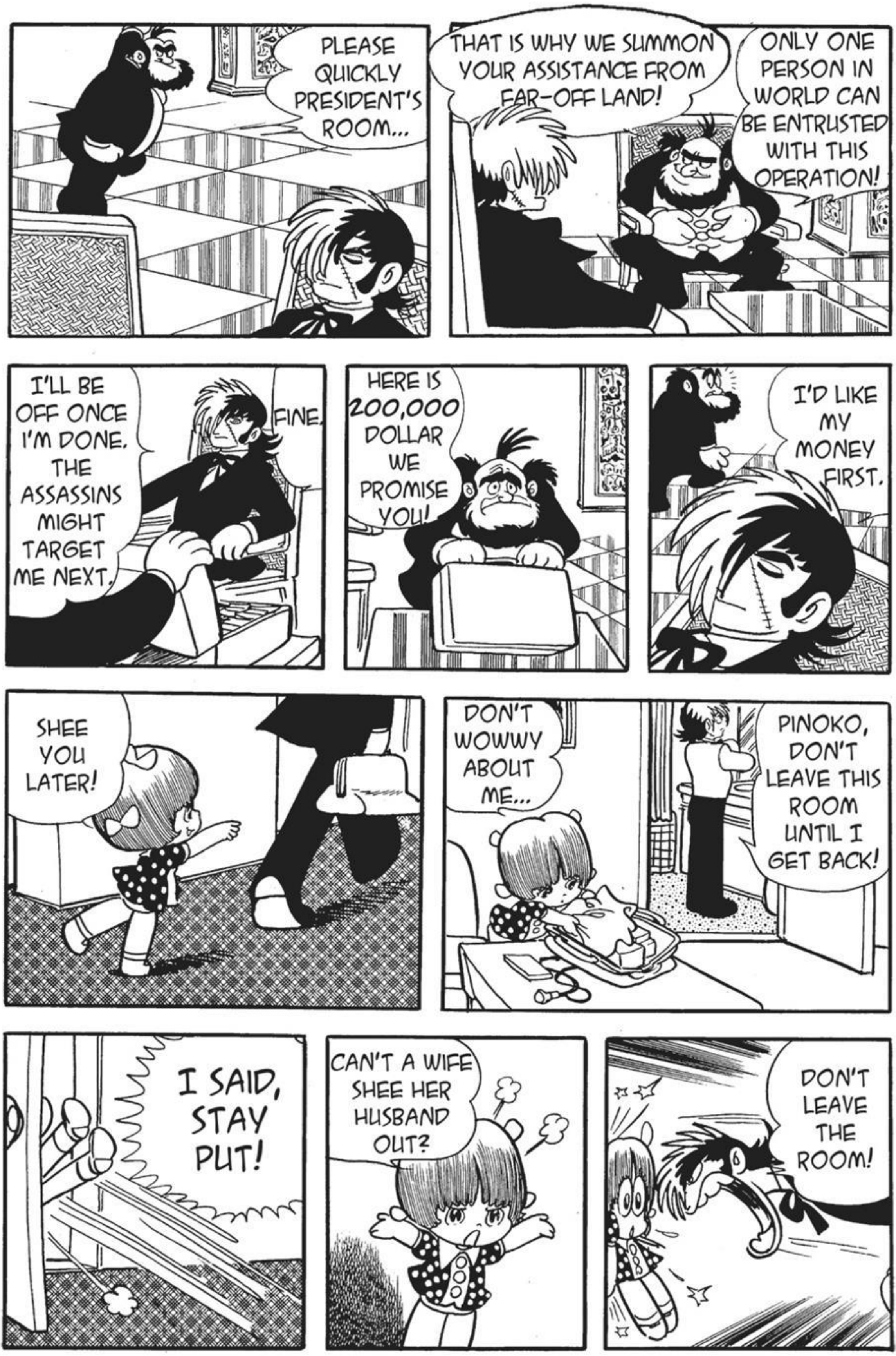

AND NOW FOR THE NEWS.
MEMBERS OF AN ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUP WERE ASSASSINATED IN ALGIERS TODAY.
THE SLAIN ACTIVISTS STRONGLY OPPOSED PLANS TO BUILD NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN AFRICA.
ONE OF THE VICTIMS, A HALF-JAPANESE MALE,
HAS AN OLD SURGICAL SCAR ON ONE BUTTOCK. THE EMBASSY IS TRYING TO ASCERTAIN...
THAT'S TAKASHI !!

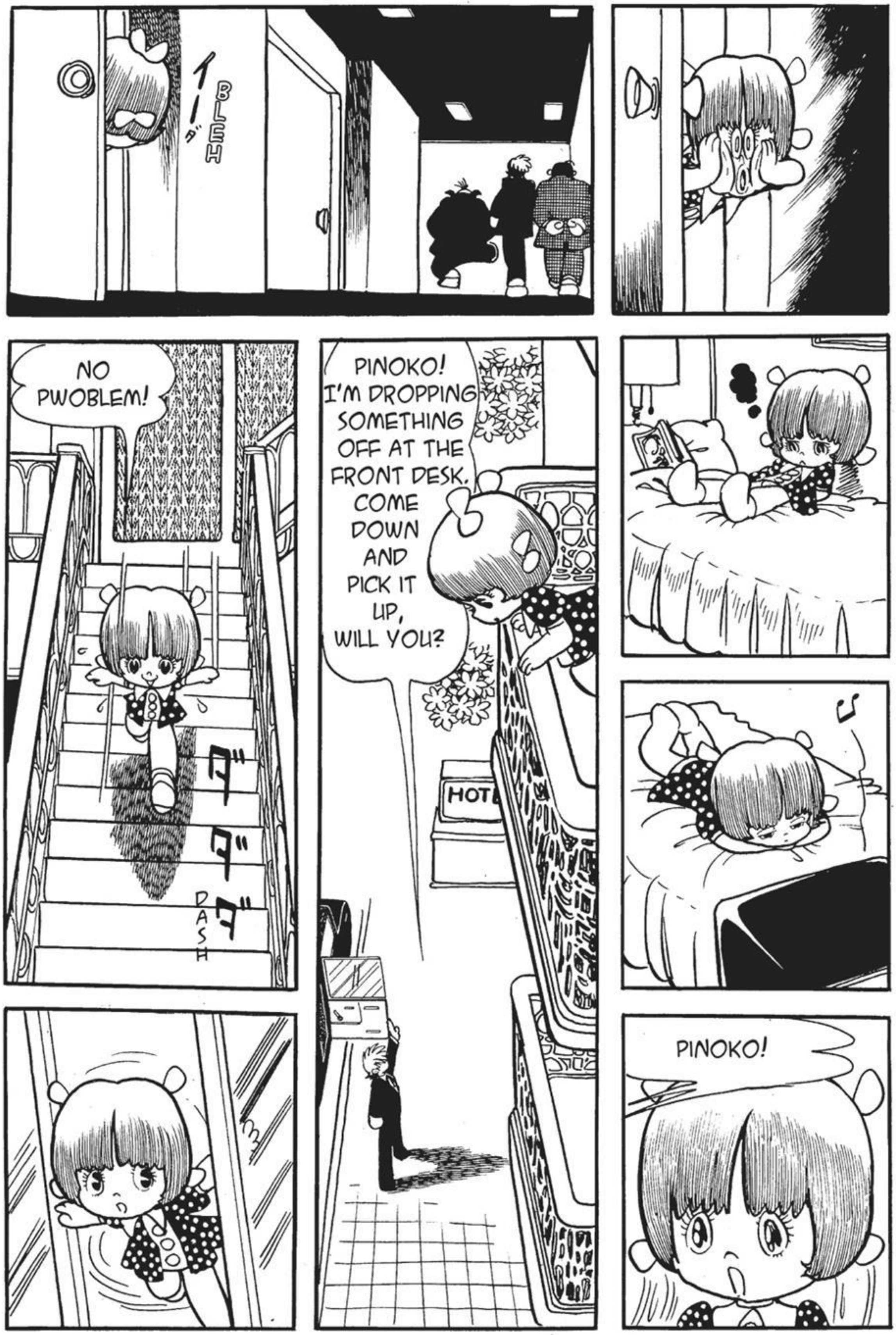

"THE EARTH IS ALIVE... WE NEED DOCTORS WHO CAN HEAL IT... FAREWELL."
LOOKS LIKE THE SKIN YOU GAVE ME HAS BECOME A MEMENTO...
I'M KEEPING IT, TAKASHI.
...

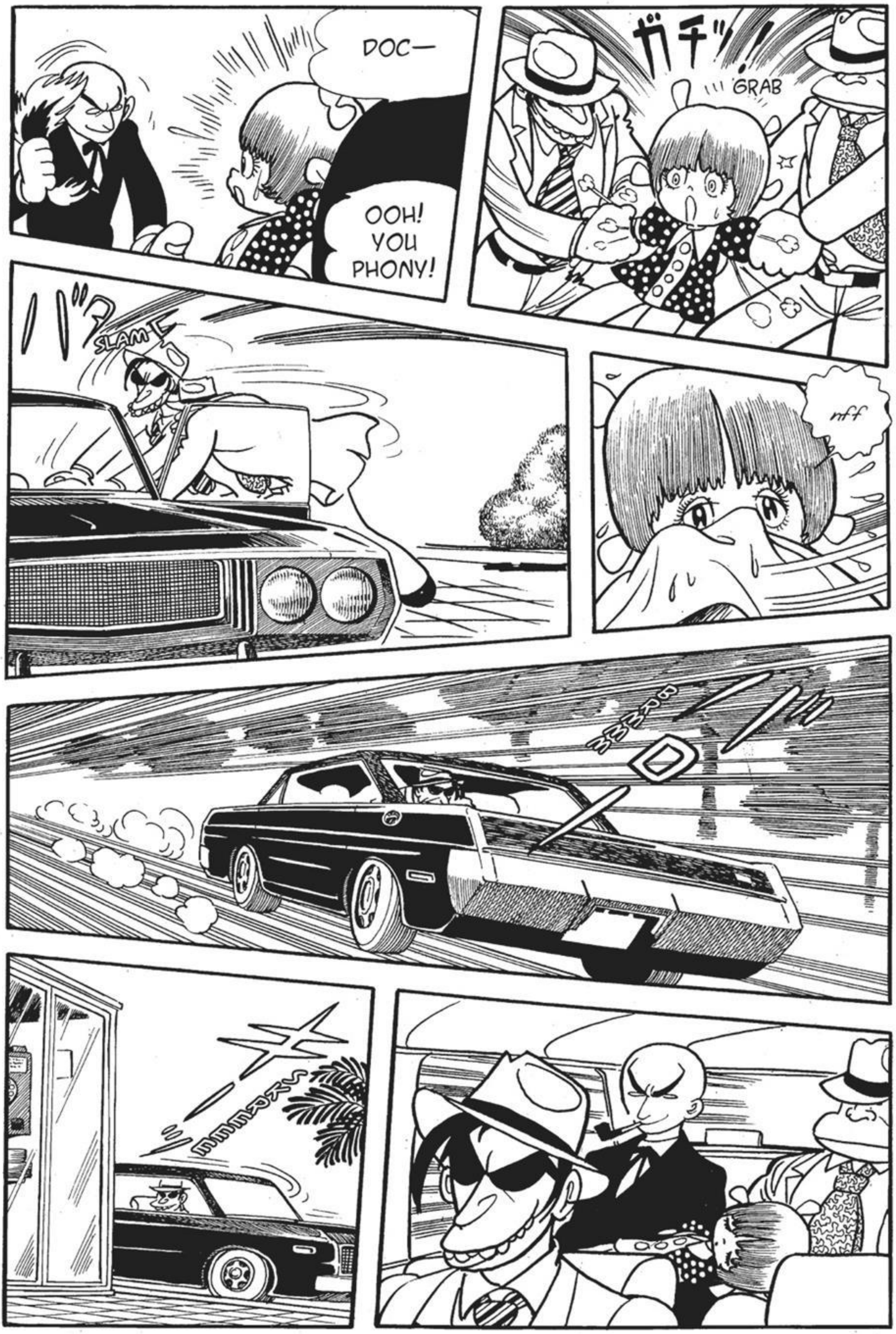
KIDNAPPING

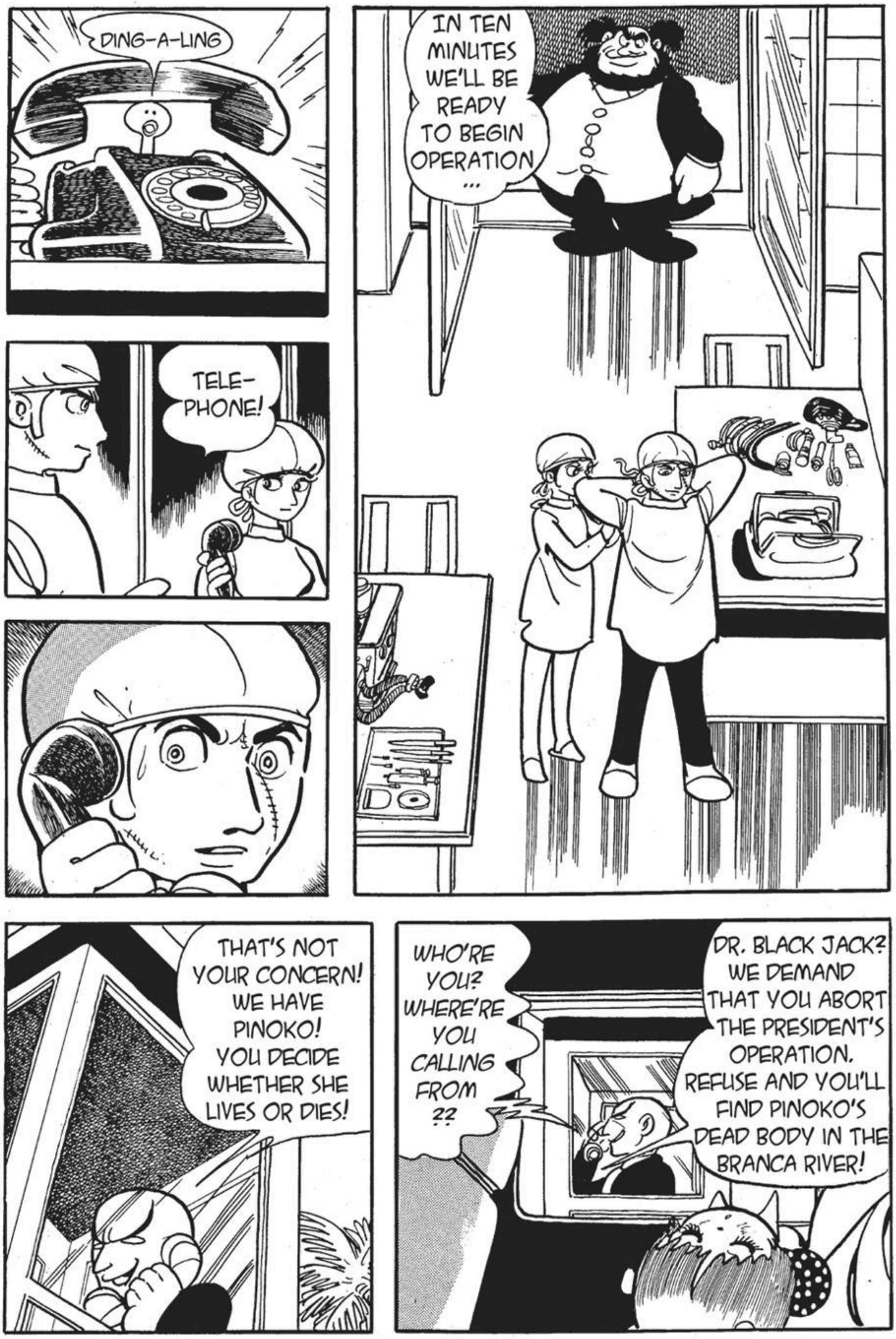

DC-8-61
DOC
DCB
HUP!
サッ
DOCTOR BLACK JACK?
THIS WAY, PLEASE!
AT YER SERVICE!
BRMMMM
ブオオオ

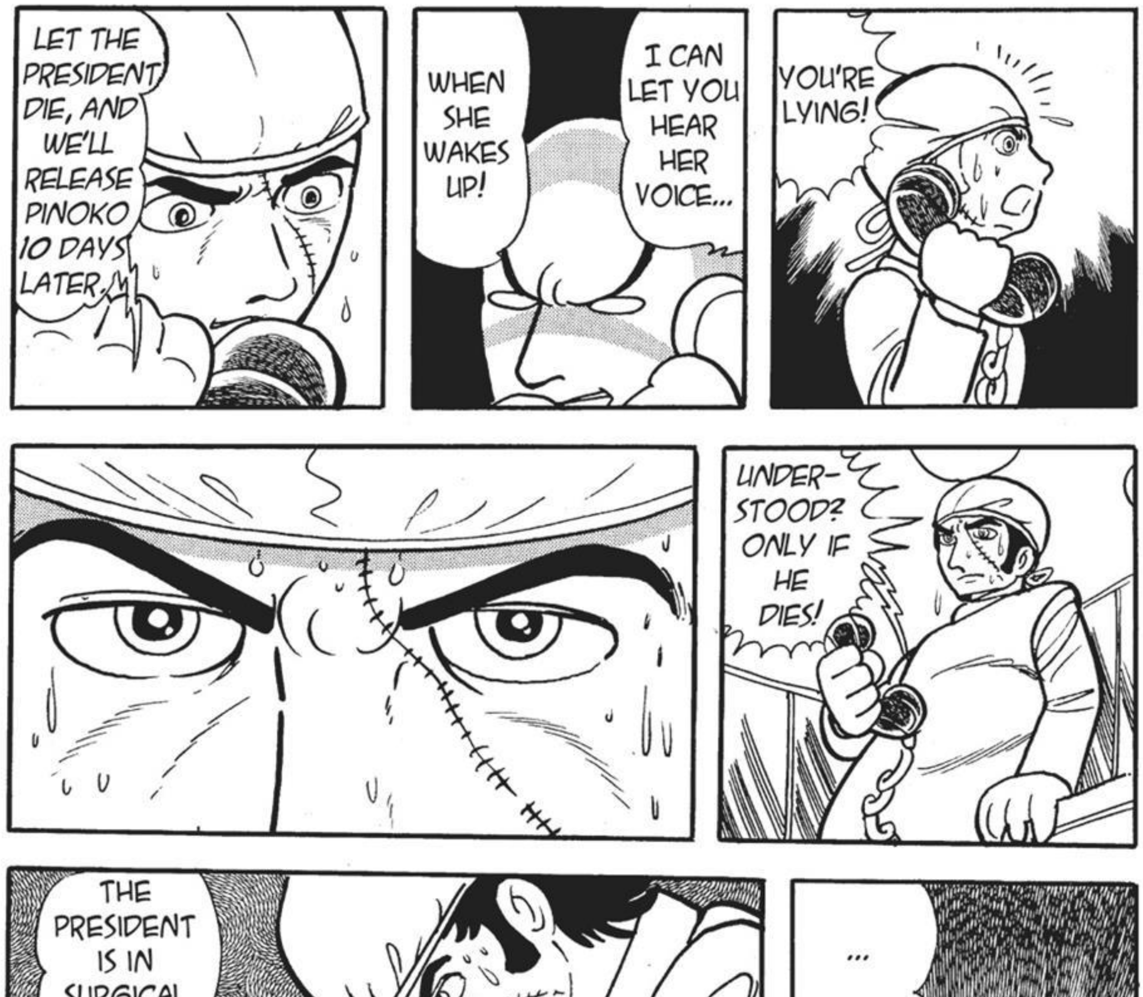

WELCOME TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CAINAN!
I AM PRESIDENT'S PHYSICIAN, LORD KAN PLA CHIN.
PINOKO IS THE DOCTOR'S WIFE!
FOR 380 YEARS, MY ILLUSTRIOUS ANCESTORS...
I'M NOT INTERESTED. HOW'S THE PRESIDENT?
ASSASSIN'S BULLET IS LODGED IN THE HONORABLE OCCIPITAL REGION.
IT IS LOCATED HEREABOUTS!
IF SURGERY HURT MEDULLA OBLONGATA, PRESIDENT INSTANTLY DEAD!

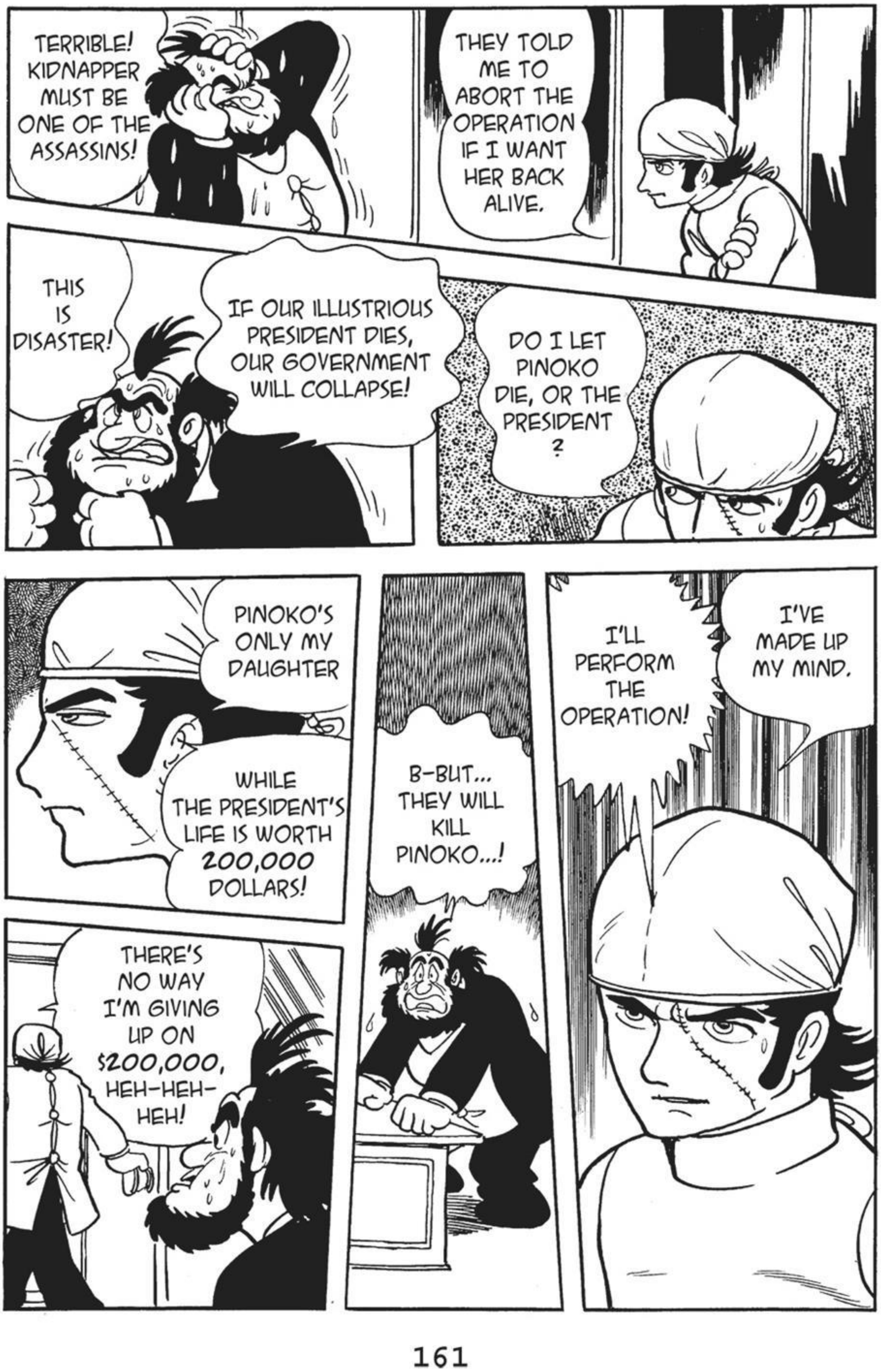

PLEASE QUICKLY PRESIDENT'S ROOM...
THAT IS WHY WE SUMMON YOUR ASSISTANCE FROM FAR-OFF LAND!
ONLY ONE PERSON IN WORLD CAN BE ENTRUSTED WITH THIS OPERATION!
I'LL BE OFF ONCE I'M DONE. THE ASSASSINS MIGHT TARGET ME NEXT.
FINE.
HERE IS 200,000 DOLLAR WE PROMISE YOU!
I'D LIKE MY MONEY FIRST.
SHEE YOU LATER!
DON'T WOWWY ABOUT ME...
PINOKO, DON'T LEAVE THIS ROOM UNTIL I GET BACK!
I SAID, STAY PUT!
CAN'T A WIFE SHEE HER HUSBAND OUT?
DON'T LEAVE THE ROOM!

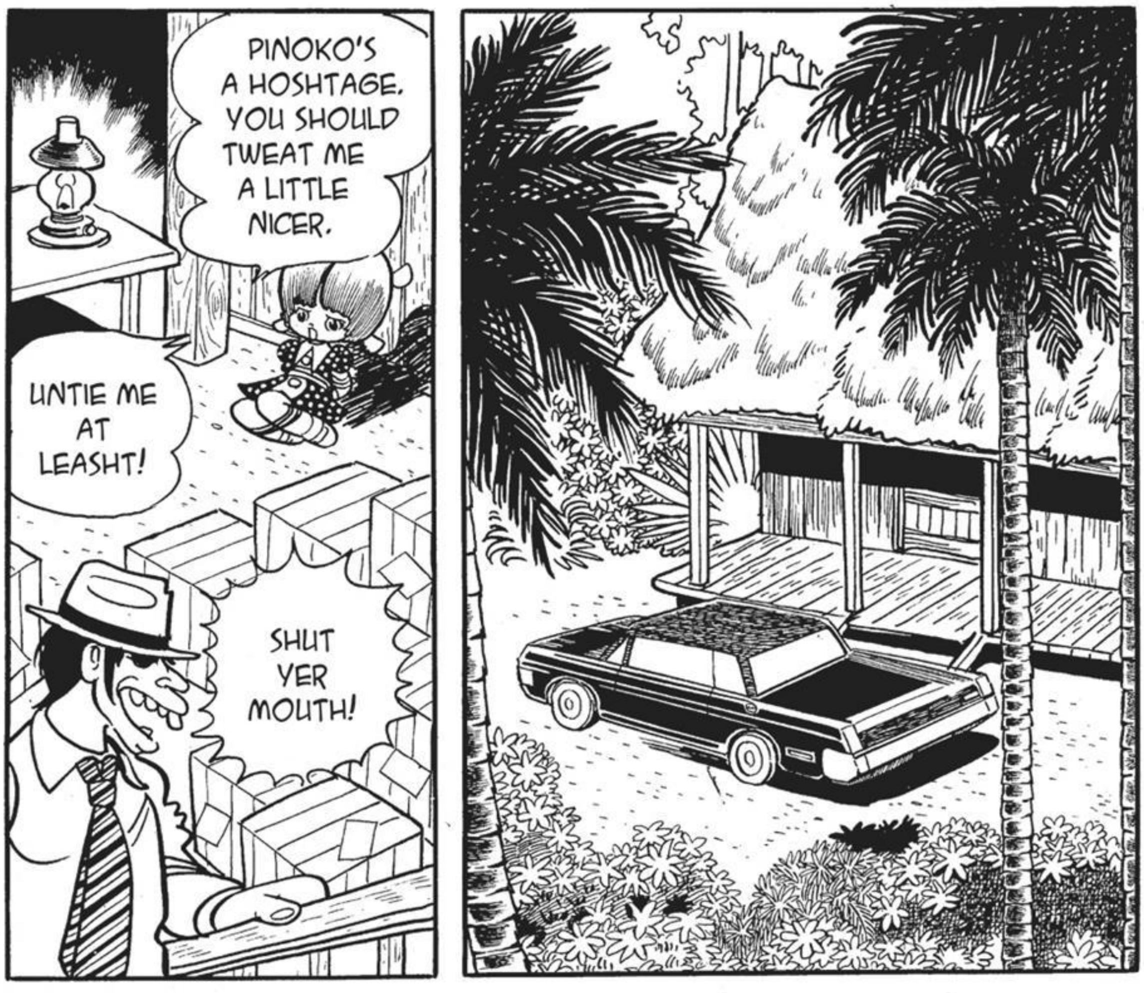

イーダ
BLEH
PINOKO!
PINOKO! I'M DROPPING SOMETHING OFF AT THE FRONT DESK. COME DOWN AND PICK IT UP, WILL YOU?
HOTE
NO PWOBLEM!
ダダダ
DASH

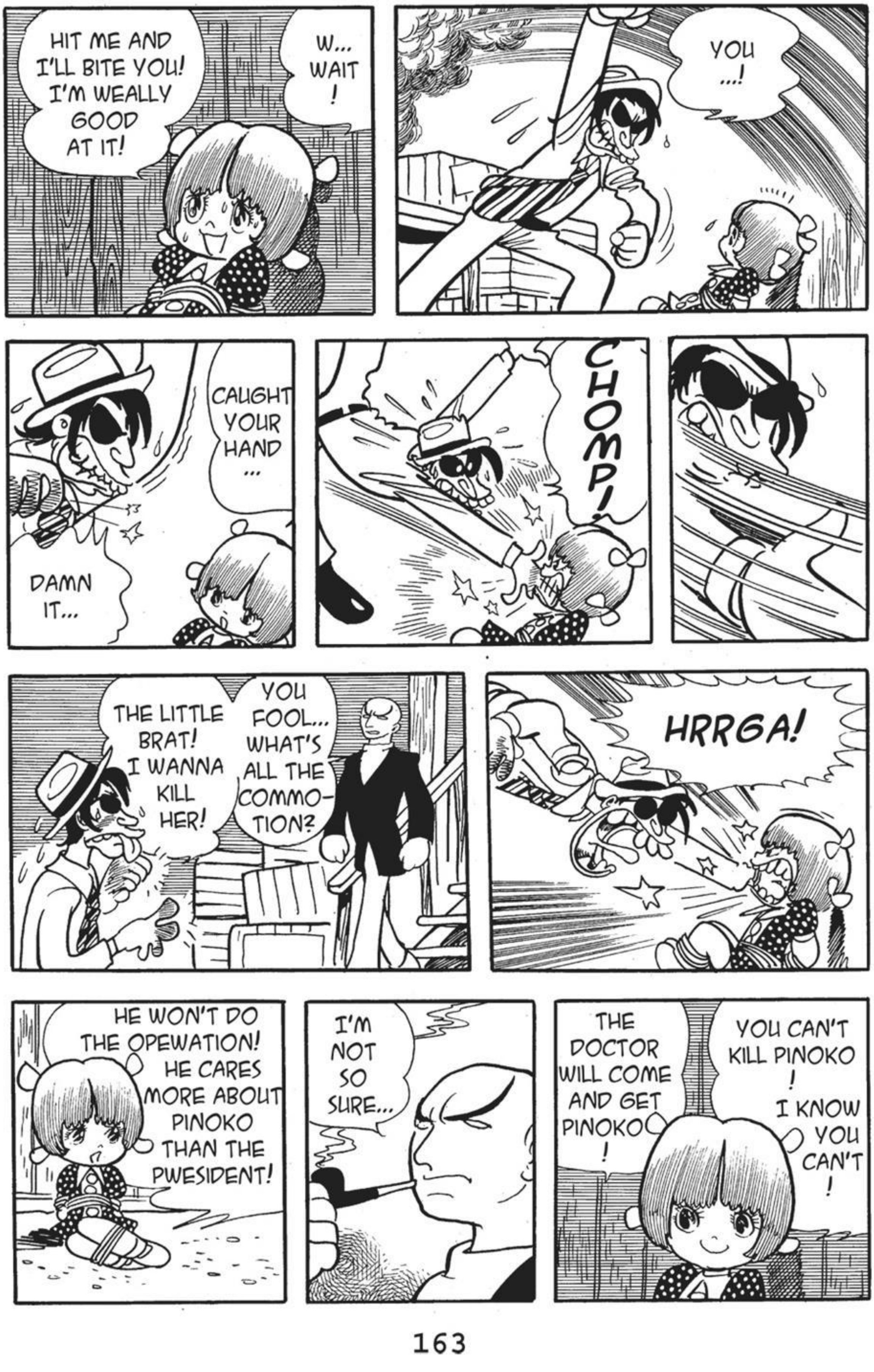

ガチッ!
GRAB
DOC—
OOH! YOU PHONY!
nff
SLAM
BRMMM
キー
SKREEEE

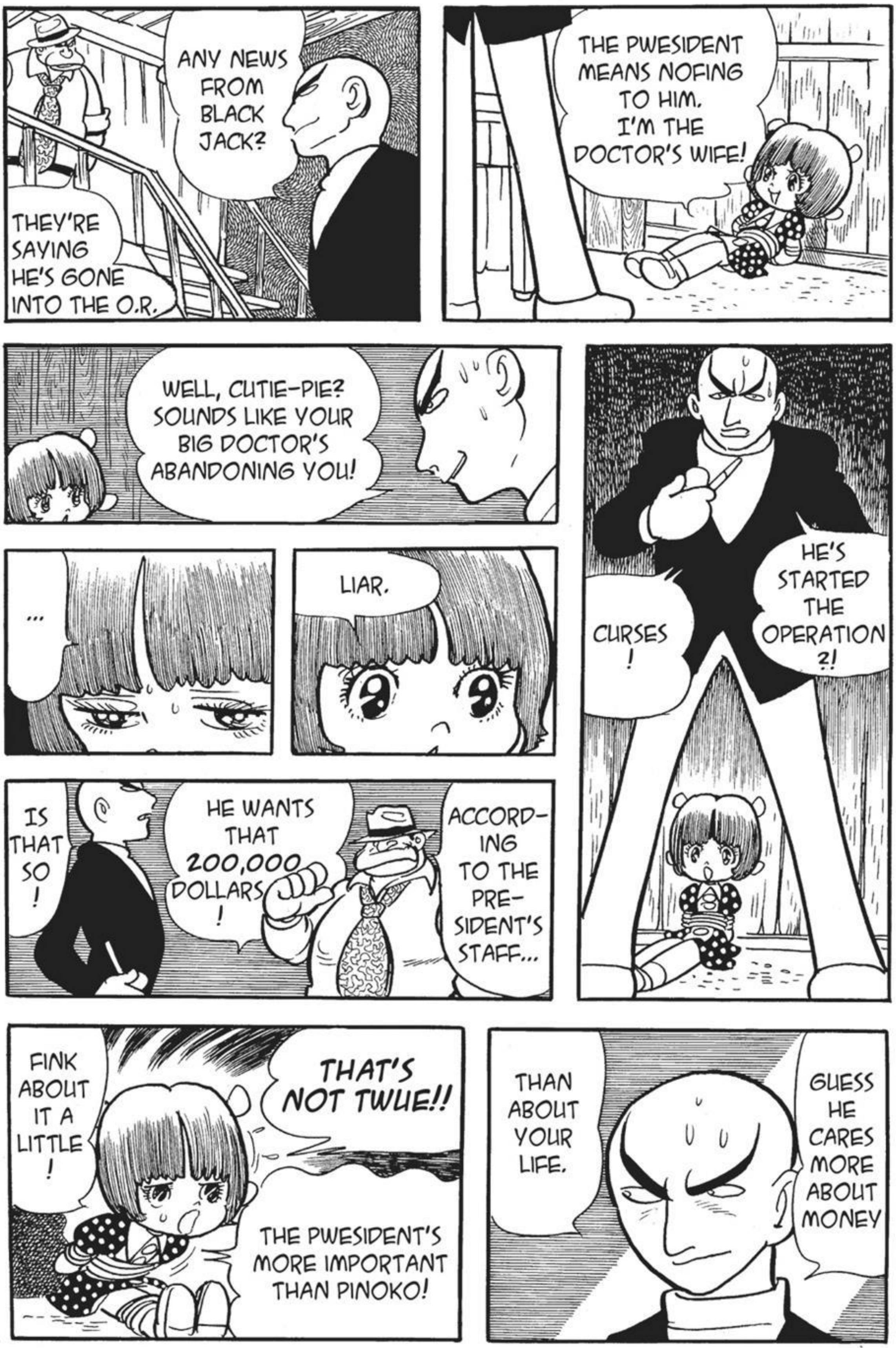

IN TEN MINUTES WE'LL BE READY TO BEGIN OPERATION ...
DING-A-LING
TELE-PHONE!
DR. BLACK JACK? WE DEMAND THAT YOU ABORT THE PRESIDENT'S OPERATION. REFUSE AND YOU'LL FIND PINOKO'S DEAD BODY IN THE BRANCA RIVER!
WHO'RE YOU? WHERE'RE YOU CALLING FROM ??
THAT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN! WE HAVE PINOKO! YOU DECIDE WHETHER SHE LIVES OR DIES!

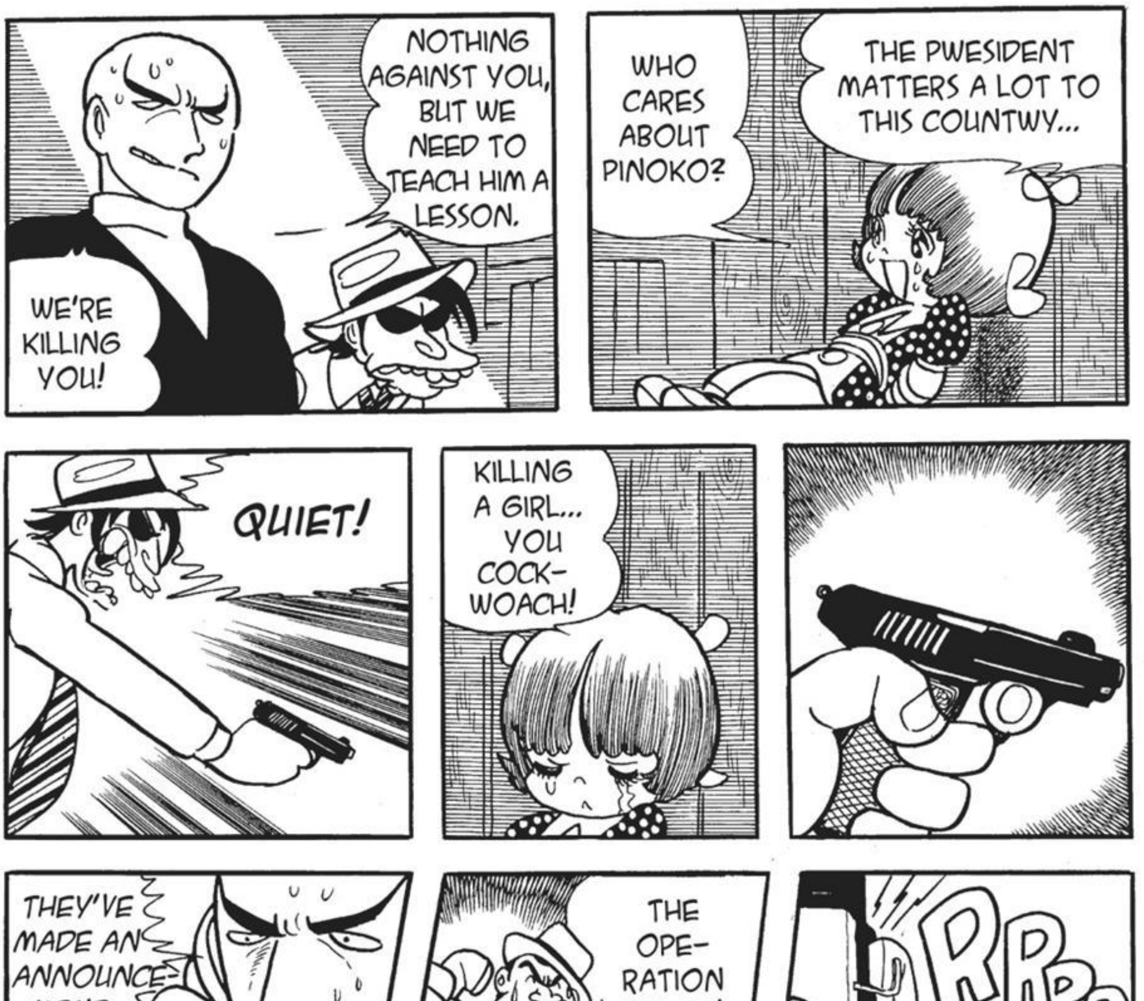

YOU'RE LYING!
I CAN LET YOU HEAR HER VOICE...
WHEN SHE WAKES UP!
LET THE PRESIDENT DIE, AND WE'LL RELEASE PINOKO 10 DAYS LATER.
UNDERSTOOD? ONLY IF HE DIES!
...
THE PRESIDENT IS IN SURGICAL CHAMBER, DOCTOR.
WHAT IS THE MATTER NOW, DOCTOR?
DOCTOR BLACK JACK!
THE HOTEL CALL US! THEY SAY YOUR HONORABLE DAUGHTER IS KIDNAP!
YES, I KNOW.

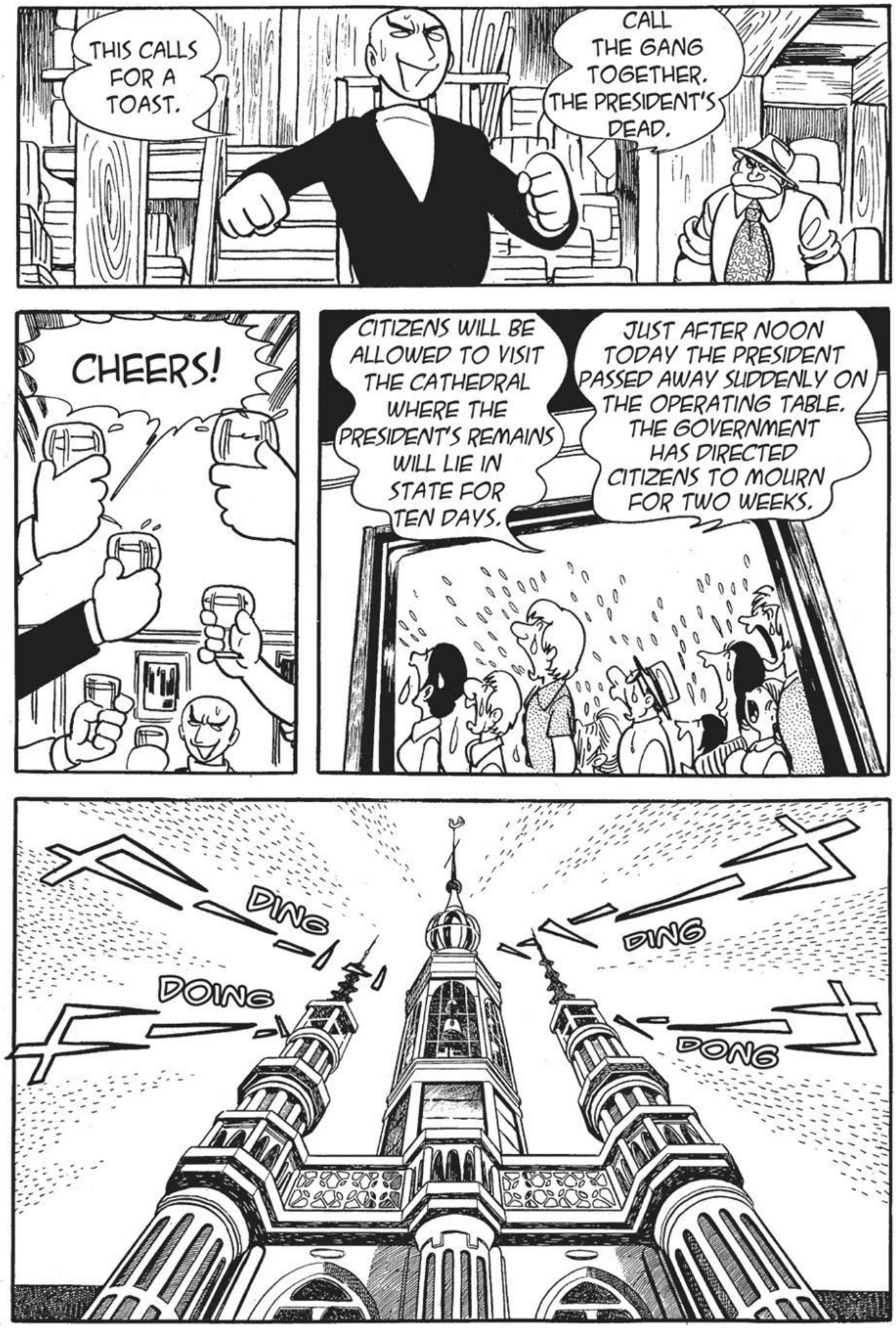

TERRIBLE! KIDNAPPER MUST BE ONE OF THE ASSASSINS!
THEY TOLD ME TO ABORT THE OPERATION IF I WANT HER BACK ALIVE.
THIS IS DISASTER!
IF OUR ILLUSTRIOUS PRESIDENT DIES, OUR GOVERNMENT WILL COLLAPSE!
DO I LET PINOKO DIE, OR THE PRESIDENT?
PINOKO'S ONLY MY DAUGHTER
WHILE THE PRESIDENT'S LIFE IS WORTH 200,000 DOLLARS!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GIVING UP ON $200,000, HEH-HEH-HEH!
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
I'LL PERFORM THE OPERATION!
B-BUT... THEY WILL KILL PINOKO...!

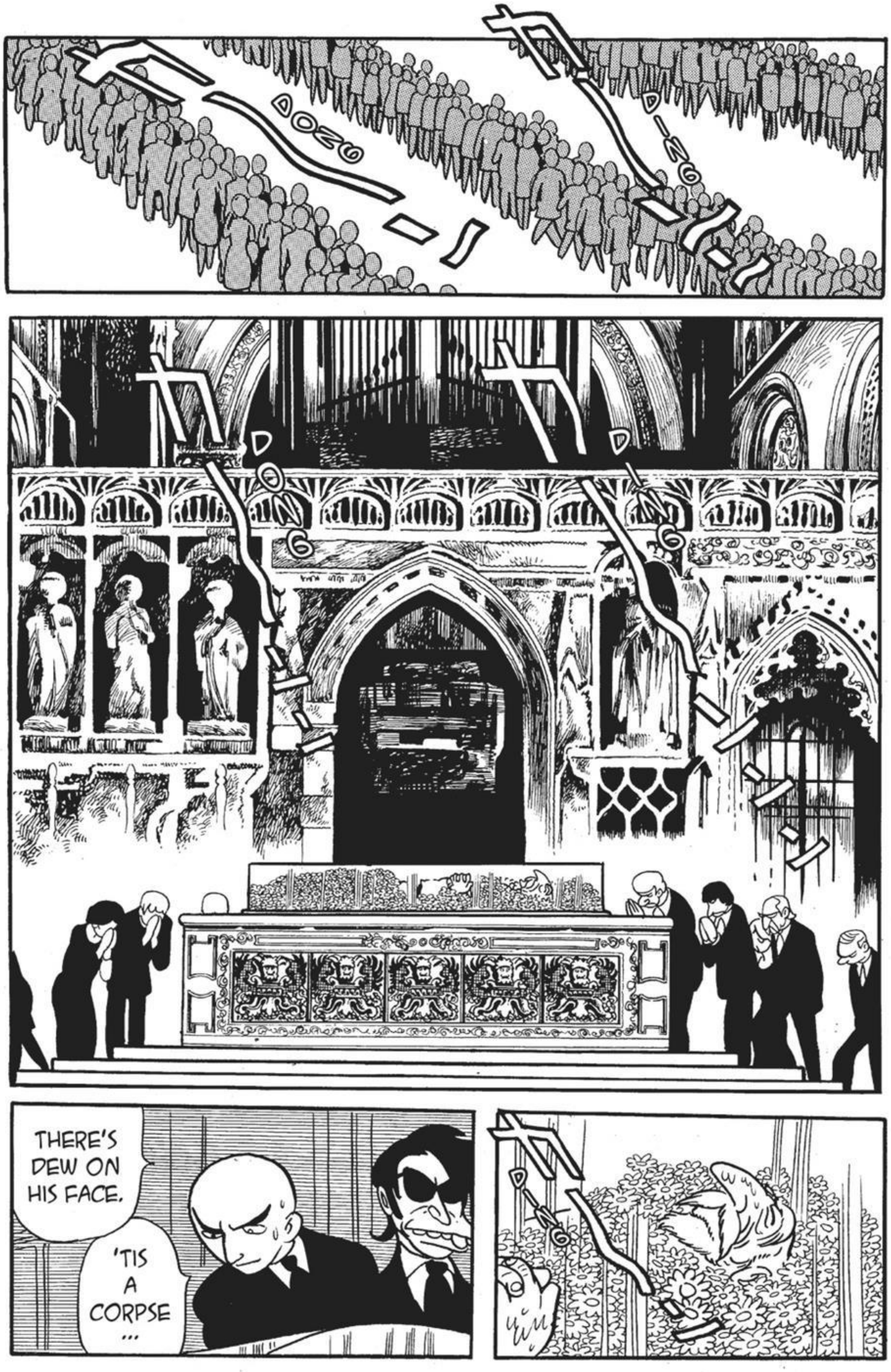

PINOKO'S A HOSHTAGE. YOU SHOULD TWEAT ME A LITTLE NICER.
UNTIE ME AT LEASHT!
SHUT YER MOUTH!
ガタン
BONK
DON'T UNDER-ESHTI-MATE A LADY!
ガチャン
KRASH
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

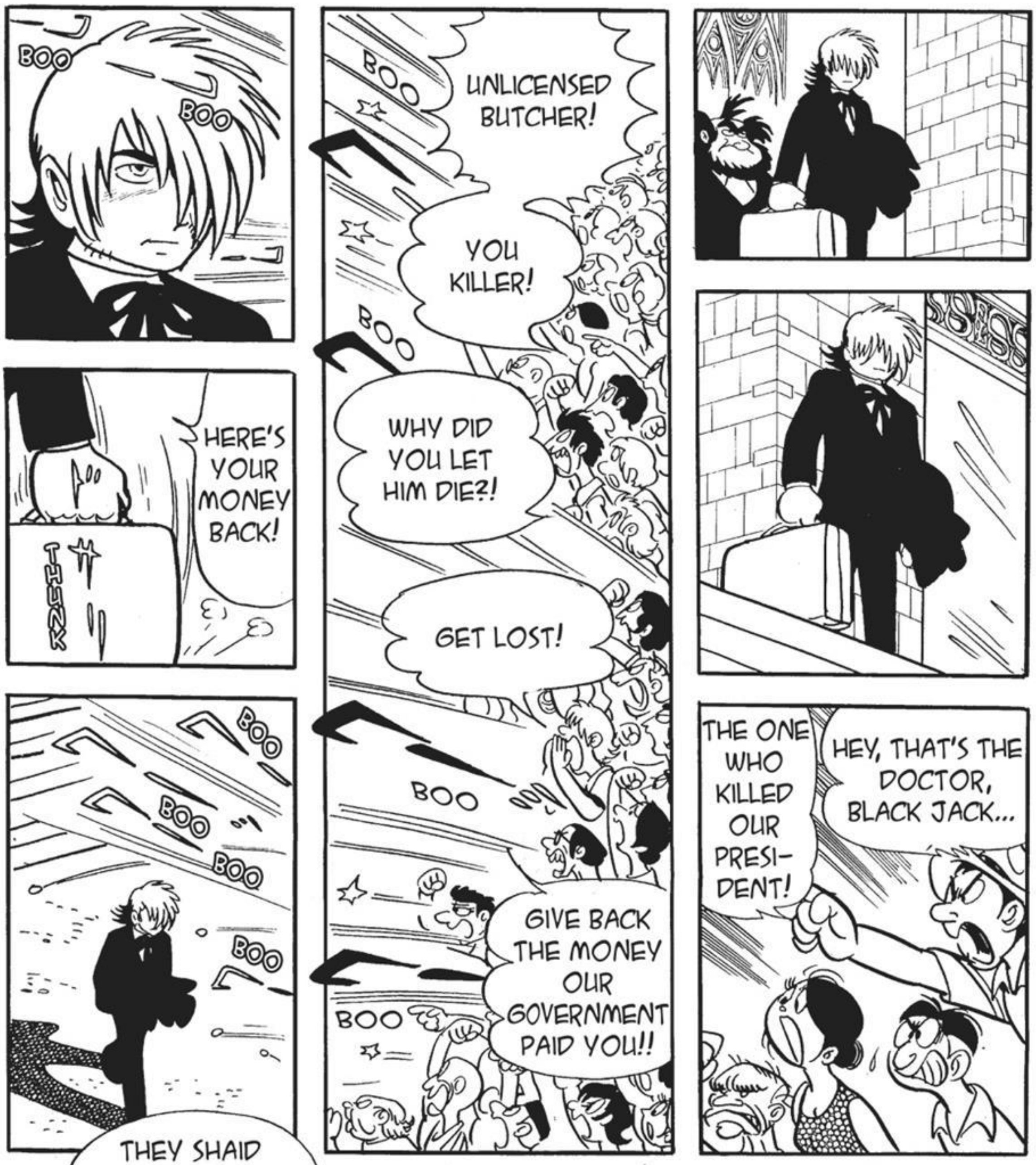

HIT ME AND I'LL BITE YOU! I'M WEALLY GOOD AT IT!
W... WAIT!
YOU ...!
CAUGHT YOUR HAND ...
DAMN IT...
CHOMP!
THE LITTLE BRAT! I WANNA KILL HER!
YOU FOOL... WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?
HRRGA!
HE WON'T DO THE OPEWATION! HE CARES MORE ABOUT PINOKO THAN THE PWESIDENT!
I'M NOT SO SURE...
THE DOCTOR WILL COME AND GET PINOKO!
YOU CAN'T KILL PINOKO! I KNOW YOU CAN'T!

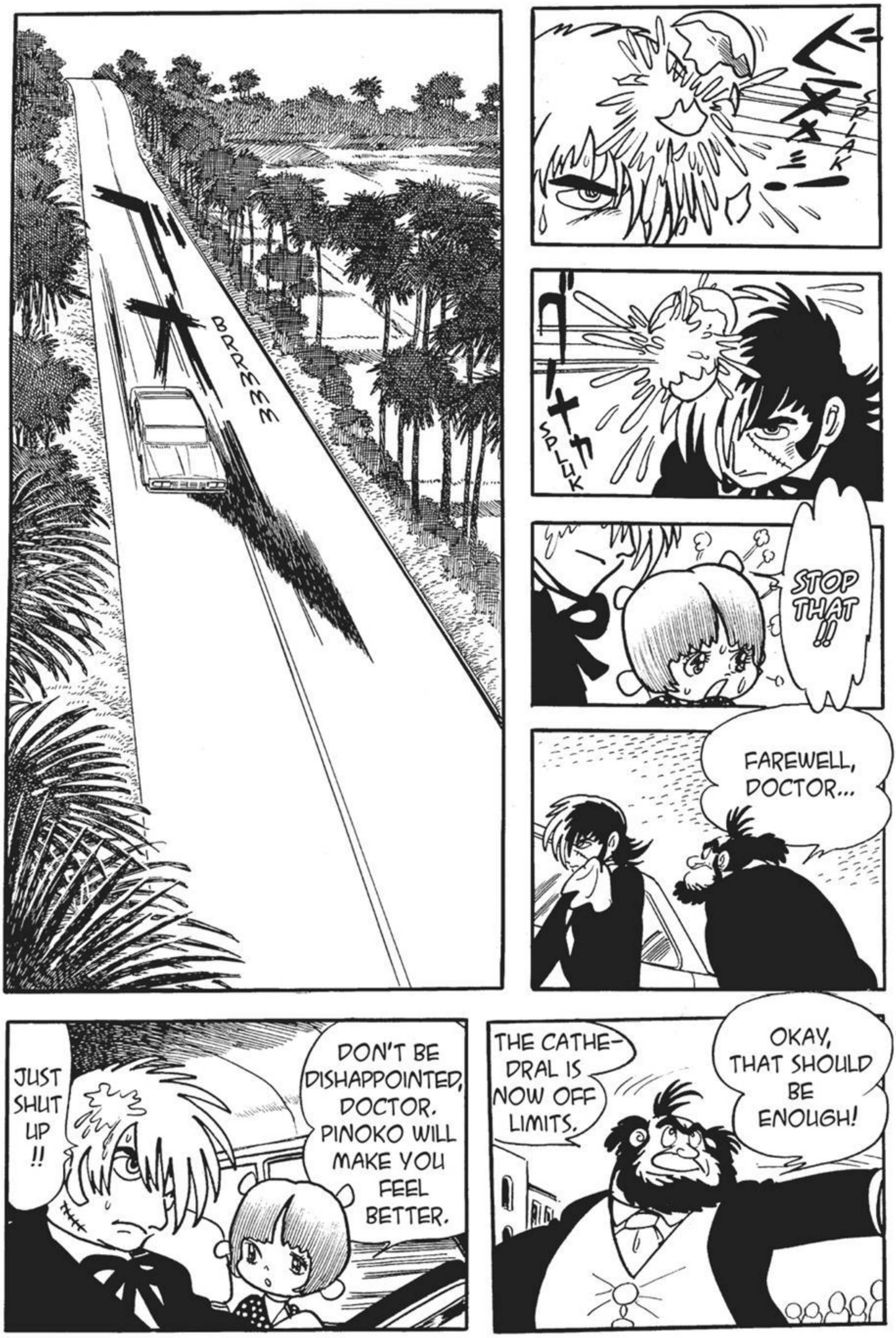

THE PWESIDENT MEANS NOFING TO HIM. I'M THE DOCTOR'S WIFE!
ANY NEWS FROM BLACK JACK?
THEY'RE SAYING HE'S GONE INTO THE O.R.
HE'S STARTED THE OPERATION ?!
CURSES !
WELL, CUTIE-PIE? SOUNDS LIKE YOUR BIG DOCTOR'S ABANDONING YOU!
LIAR.
...
ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENT'S STAFF...
HE WANTS THAT 200,000 DOLLARS !
IS THAT SO !
GUESS HE CARES MORE ABOUT MONEY
THAN ABOUT YOUR LIFE.
THAT'S NOT TWUE!!
THE PWESIDENT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN PINOKO!
FINK ABOUT IT A LITTLE !

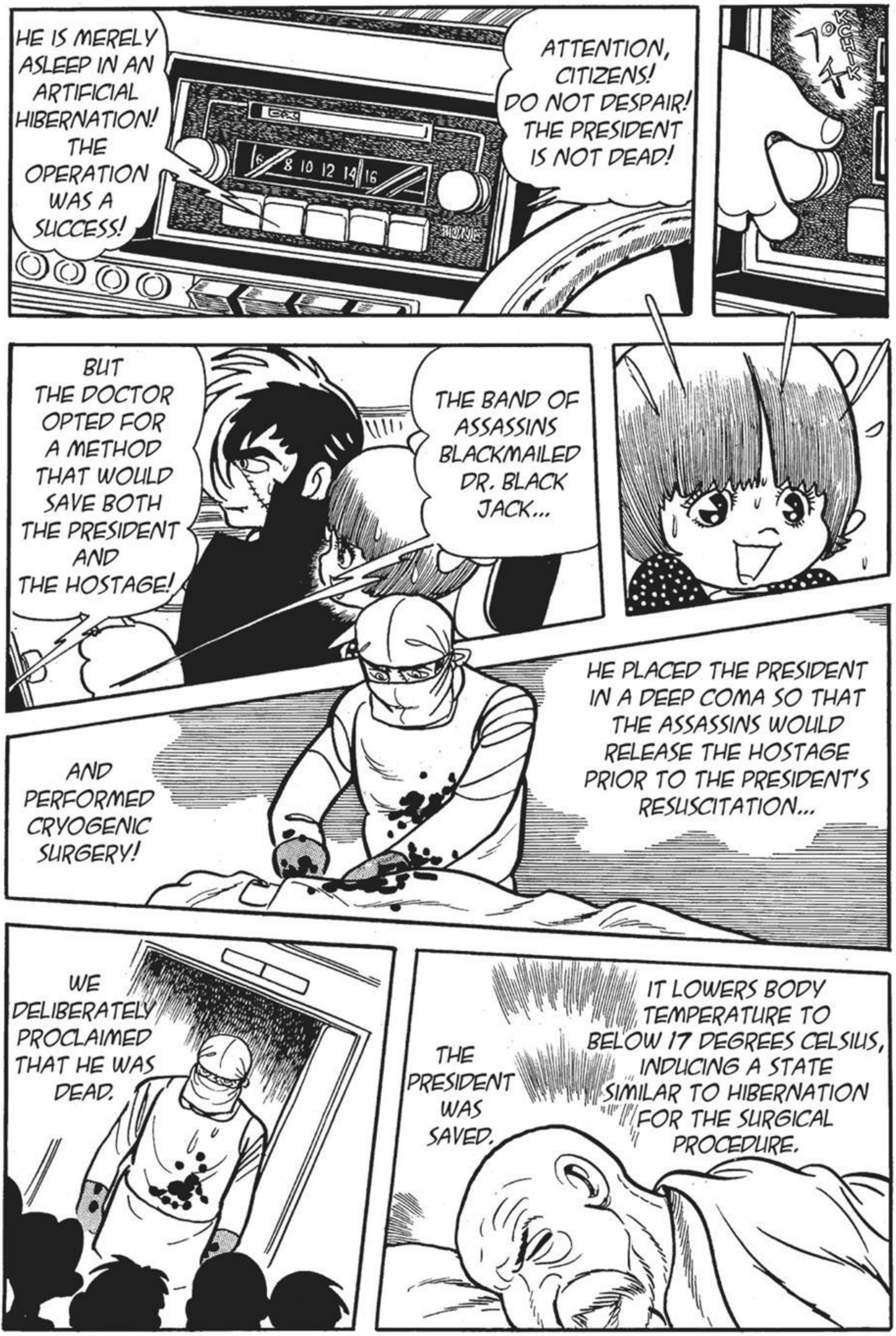

THE PWESIDENT MATTERS A LOT TO THIS COUNTWY...
WHO CARES ABOUT PINOKO?
NOTHING AGAINST YOU, BUT WE NEED TO TEACH HIM A LESSON.
WE'RE KILLING YOU!
KILLING A GIRL... YOU COCKWOACH!
QUIET!
RRRR
WHAT? THE PRESIDENT DIED?
THE OPERATION FAILED!
ARE THEY SURE? IT'S NOT JUST SOME RUMOR?
HAVE THEY CHECKED TO MAKE SURE?
THEY'VE MADE AN ANNOUNCEMENT.
THE CASE WAS BEYOND EVEN THE FAMOUS BLACK JACK.
WE EVEN CHECKED THE CORPSE.
WHA? えっ

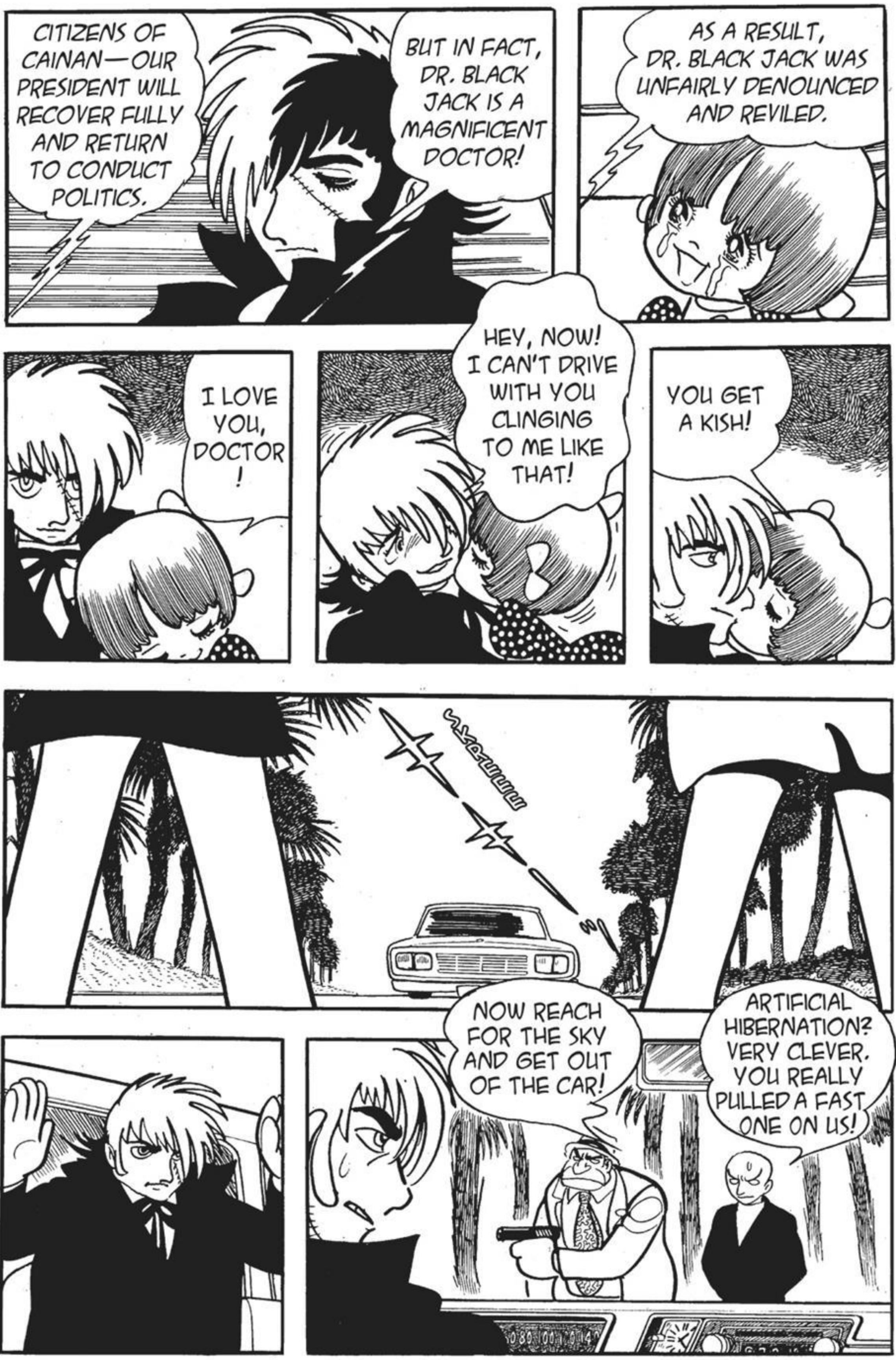

CALL THE GANG TOGETHER. THE PRESIDENT'S DEAD.
THIS CALLS FOR A TOAST.
JUST AFTER NOON TODAY THE PRESIDENT PASSED AWAY SUDDENLY ON THE OPERATING TABLE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DIRECTED CITIZENS TO MOURN FOR TWO WEEKS.
CITIZENS WILL BE ALLOWED TO VISIT THE CATHEDRAL WHERE THE PRESIDENT'S REMAINS WILL LIE IN STATE FOR TEN DAYS.
CHEERS!
DING
DING
DOING
DONG

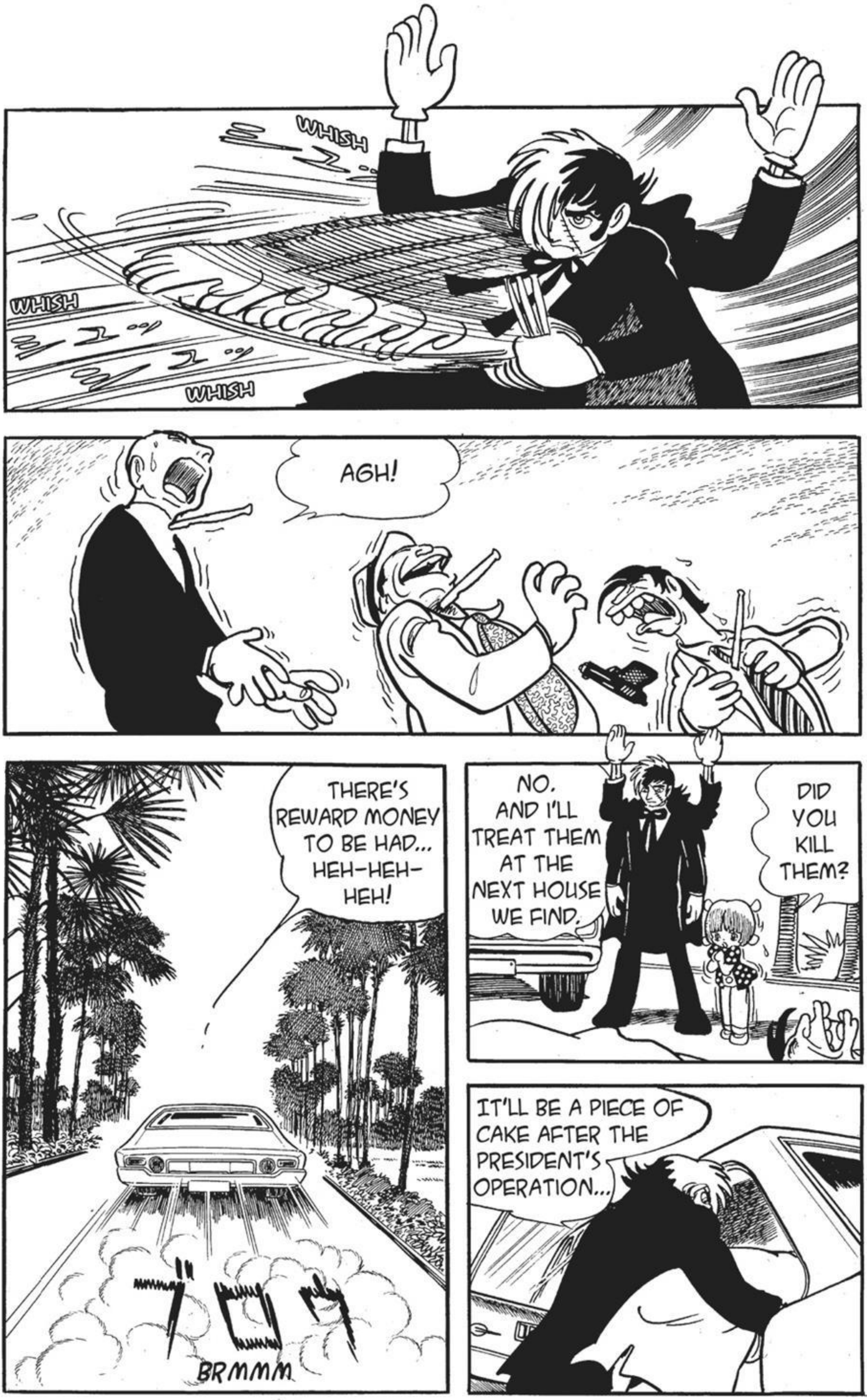

DONG
DING
DONG
DING
THERE'S DEW ON HIS FACE.
'TIS A CORPSE...
DING


HEY, THAT'S THE DOCTOR, BLACK JACK...
THE ONE WHO KILLED OUR PRESIDENT!
BOO
UNLICENSED BUTCHER!
YOU KILLER!
BOO
WHY DID YOU LET HIM DIE?!
GET LOST!
BOO
BOO
GIVE BACK THE MONEY OUR GOVERNMENT PAID YOU!!
BOO
BOO
HERE'S YOUR MONEY BACK!
THUNK
BOO
BOO
BOO
BOO
DOCTOR!
PINOKO!
THEY SHAID THEY HAD NO MORE USE FOR ME... THEY FREW ME OUT...

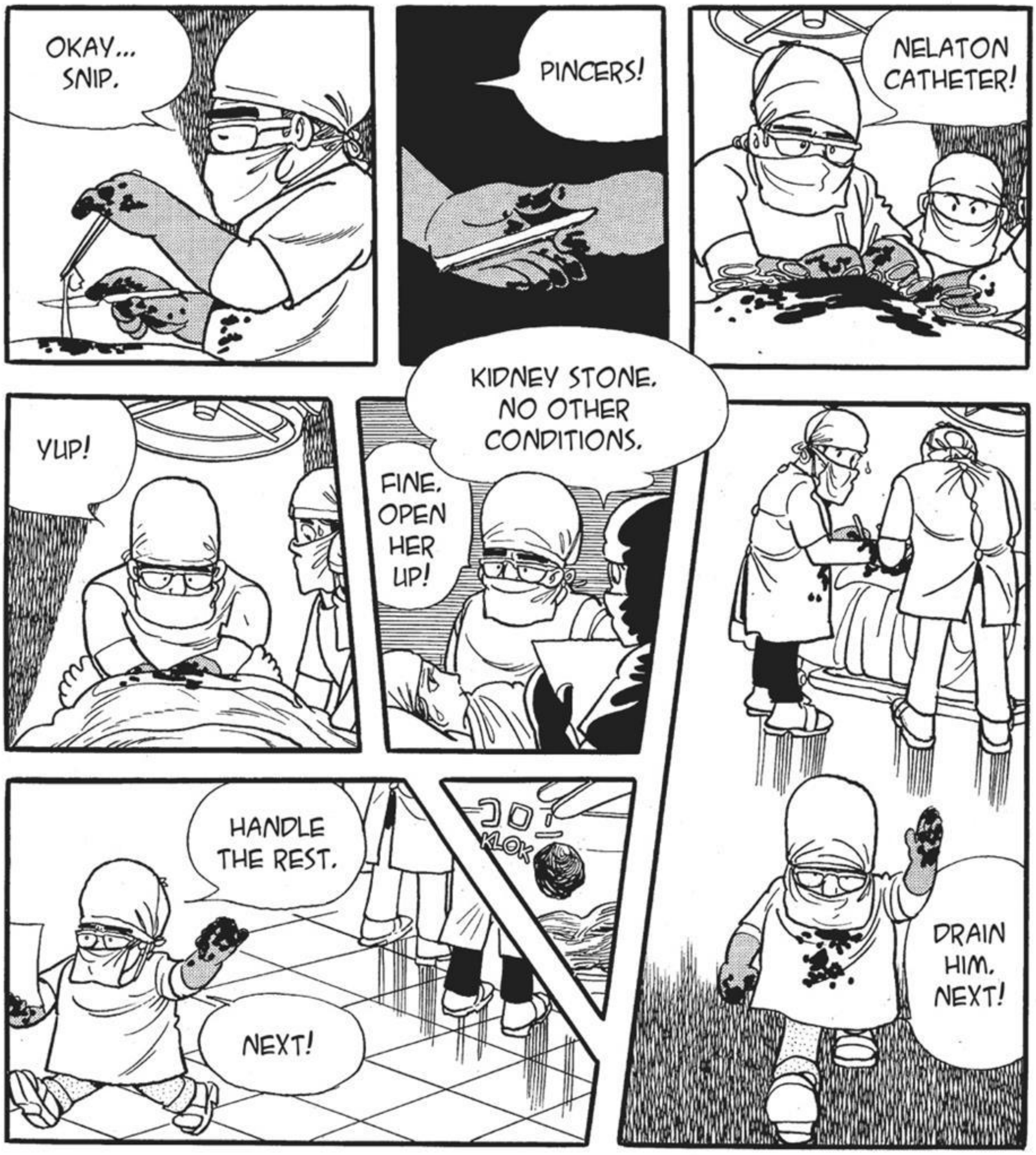

SPLAK
SPLUK
STOP THAT!!
FAREWELL, DOCTOR...
BRRMMM
OKAY, THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH!
THE CATHEDRAL IS NOW OFF LIMITS.
DON'T BE DISHAPPOINTED, DOCTOR. PINOKO WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER.
JUST SHUT UP!!

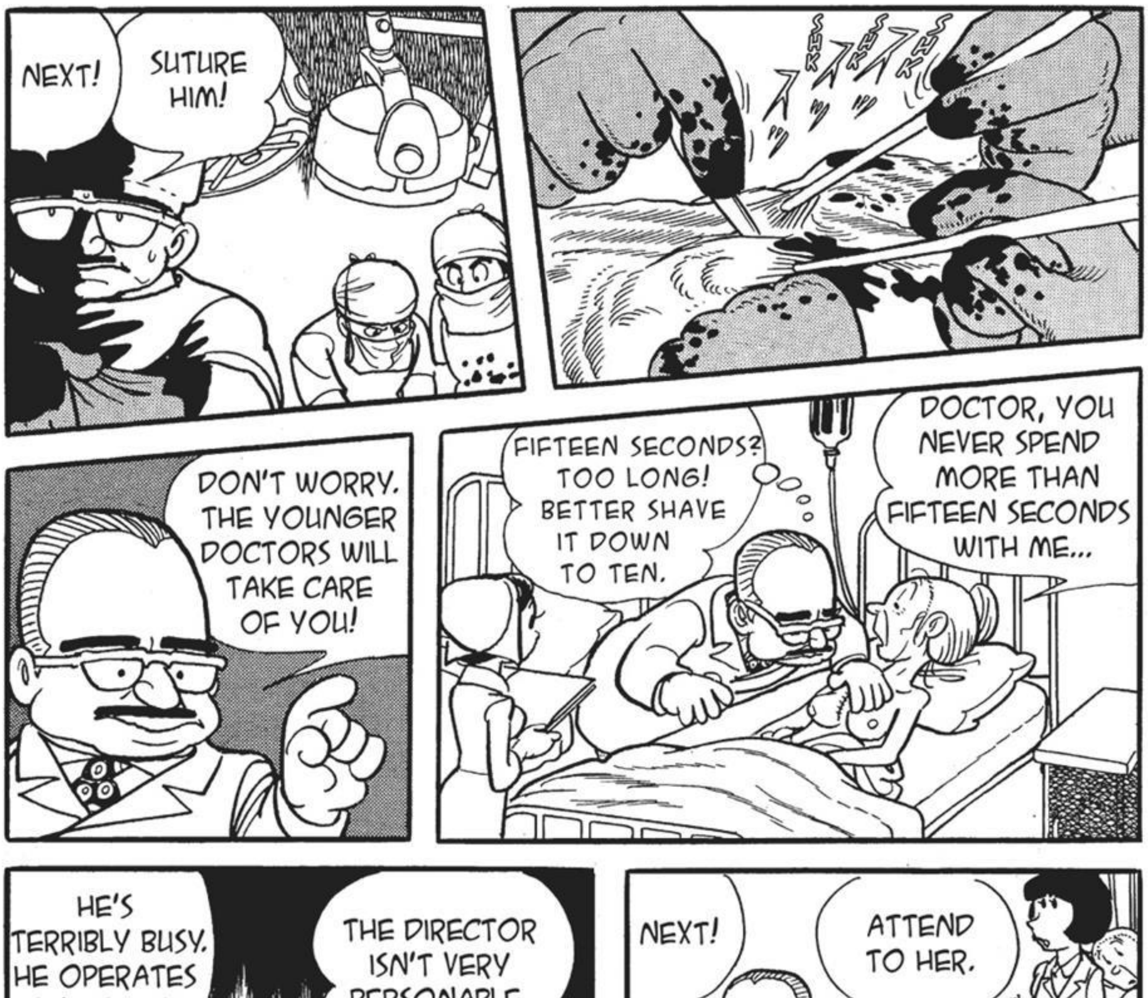

ATTENTION, CITIZENS! DO NOT DESPAIR! THE PRESIDENT IS NOT DEAD!
HE IS MERELY ASLEEP IN AN ARTIFICIAL HIBERNATION! THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS!
6 8 10 12 14 16
TONE
KCHIK
THE BAND OF ASSASSINS BLACKMAILED DR. BLACK JACK...
BUT THE DOCTOR OPTED FOR A METHOD THAT WOULD SAVE BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND THE HOSTAGE!
HE PLACED THE PRESIDENT IN A DEEP COMA SO THAT THE ASSASSINS WOULD RELEASE THE HOSTAGE PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENT'S RESUSCITATION...
AND PERFORMED CRYOGENIC SURGERY!
WE DELIBERATELY PROCLAIMED THAT HE WAS DEAD.
THE PRESIDENT WAS SAVED.
IT LOWERS BODY TEMPERATURE TO BELOW 17 DEGREES CELSIUS, INDUCING A STATE SIMILAR TO HIBERNATION FOR THE SURGICAL PROCEDURE.


CITIZENS OF CAINAN—OUR PRESIDENT WILL RECOVER FULLY AND RETURN TO CONDUCT POLITICS.
BUT IN FACT, DR. BLACK JACK IS A MAGNIFICENT DOCTOR!
AS A RESULT, DR. BLACK JACK WAS UNFAIRLY DENOUNCED AND REVILED.
I LOVE YOU, DOCTOR!
HEY, NOW! I CAN'T DRIVE WITH YOU CLINGING TO ME LIKE THAT!
YOU GET A KISH!
NOW REACH FOR THE SKY AND GET OUT OF THE CAR!
ARTIFICIAL HIBERNATION? VERY CLEVER. YOU REALLY PULLED A FAST ONE ON US!

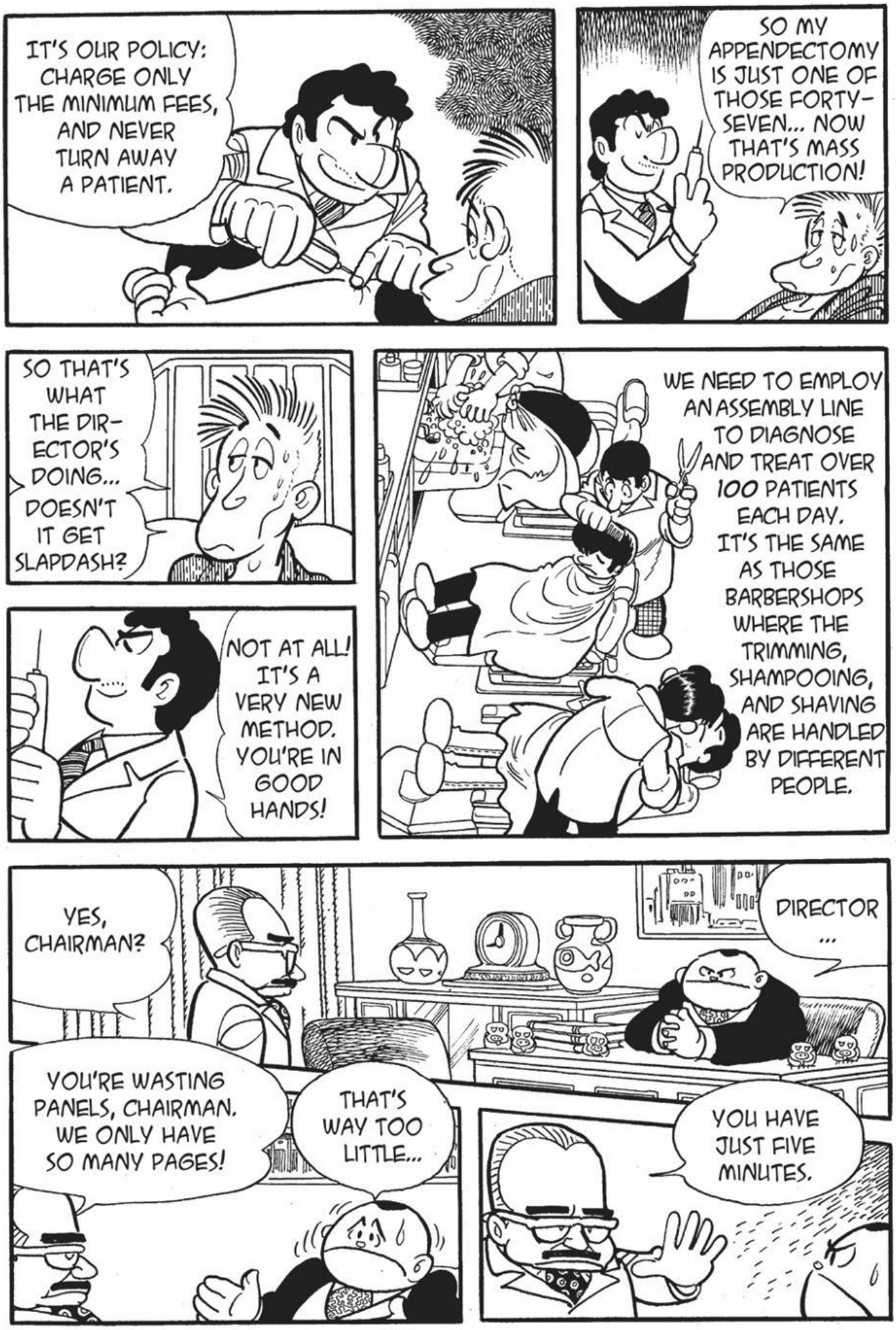

WHISH
WHISH
WHISH
AGH!
DID YOU KILL THEM?
NO. AND I'LL TREAT THEM AT THE NEXT HOUSE WE FIND.
IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S OPERATION...
THERE'S REWARD MONEY TO BE HAD... HEH-HEH-HEH!
BRMMM

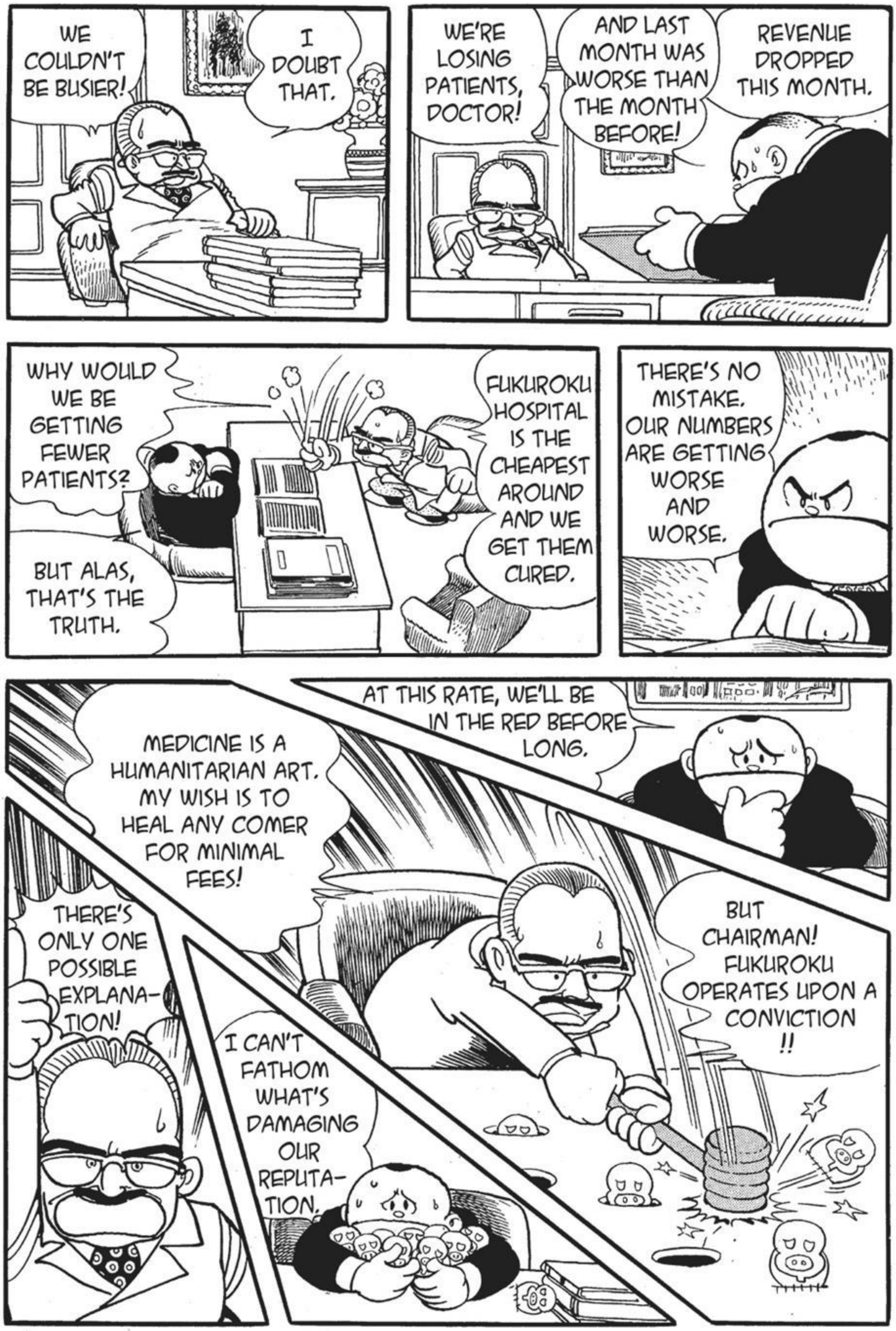
ASSEMBLY LINE CARE

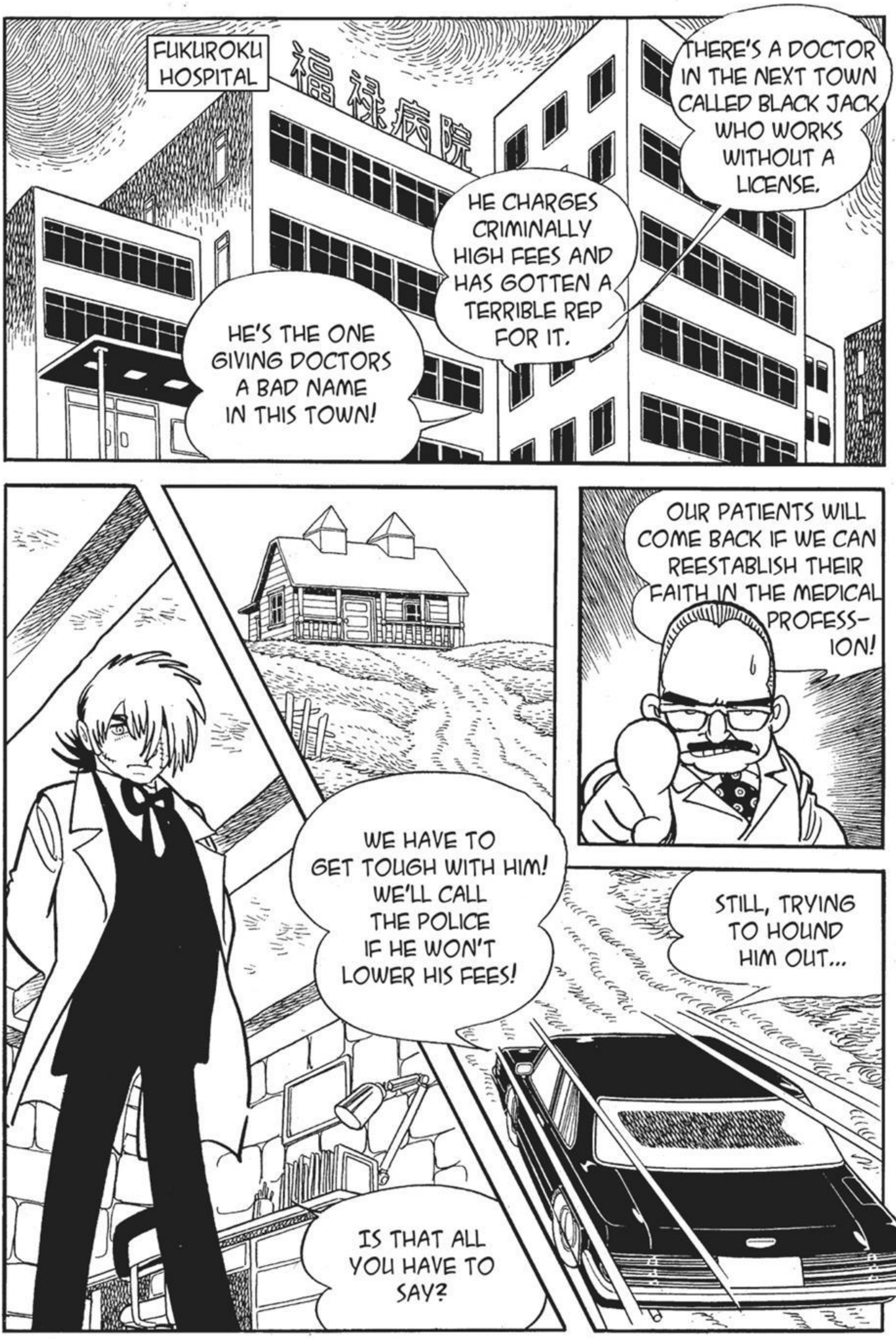

OKAY... SNIP.
PINCERS!
NELATON CATHETER!
YUP!
KIDNEY STONE. NO OTHER CONDITIONS.
FINE. OPEN HER UP!
HANDLE THE REST.
NEXT!
KLOK
DRAIN HIM. NEXT!
ROUND-TIPPED CUTTER ...
PHLEGMON OF THE RIGHT FOREARM. WE STARTED HIM ON ANTIBIOTICS YESTERDAY...
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME IN SOONER? YOU'RE ALREADY GETTING BLOOD POISONING!

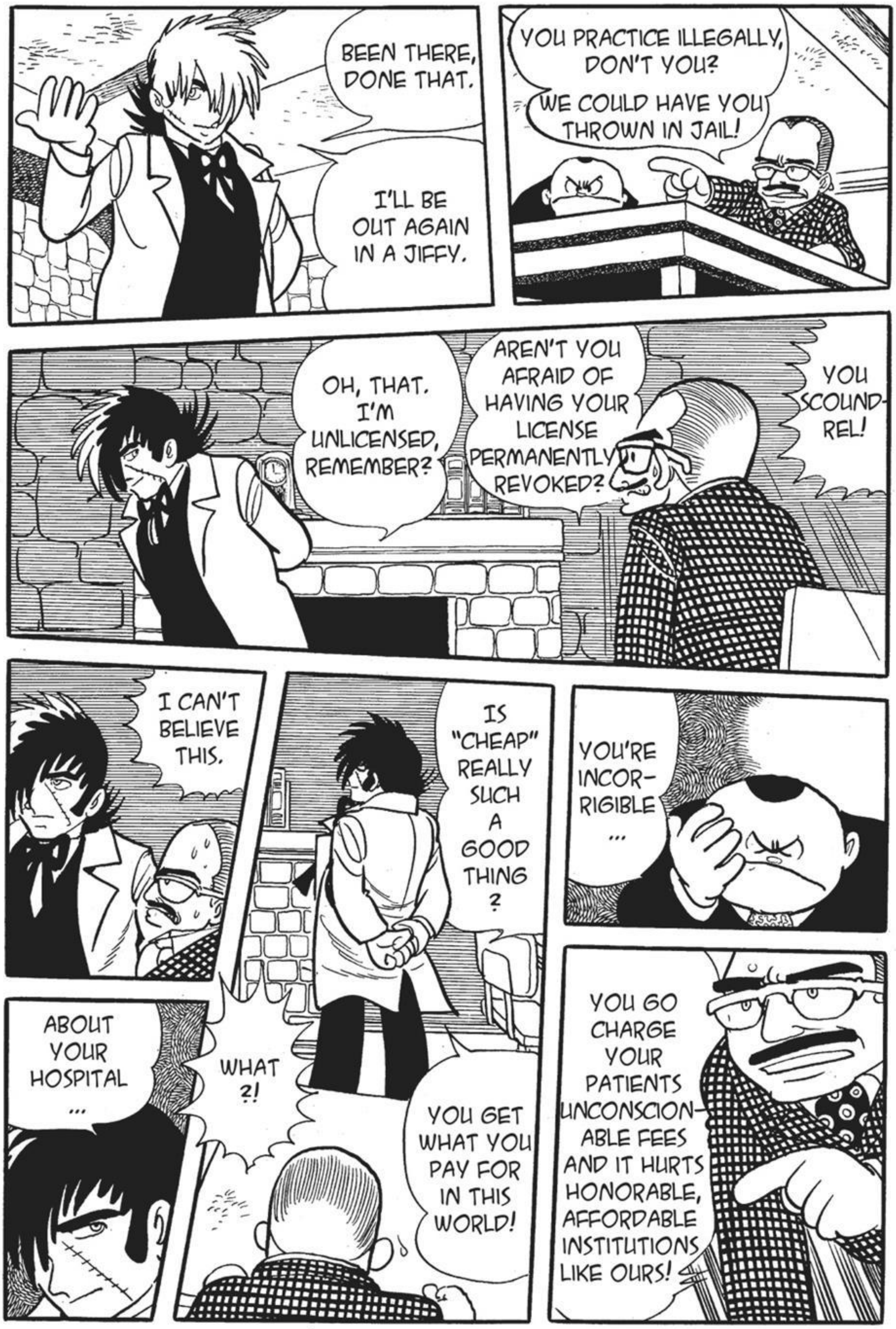

NEXT!
SUTURE HIM!
DON'T WORRY. THE YOUNGER DOCTORS WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU!
DOCTOR, YOU NEVER SPEND MORE THAN FIFTEEN SECONDS WITH ME...
FIFTEEN SECONDS? TOO LONG! BETTER SHAVE IT DOWN TO TEN.
THE DIRECTOR ISN'T VERY PERSONABLE, IS HE?
HE'S TERRIBLY BUSY. HE OPERATES ON FORTY-SEVEN PATIENTS EACH DAY, YOU KNOW.
FORTY-SEVEN RONIN!
NEXT!
ATTEND TO HER.
はい YES
DOCTOR, MY GAS...
FINE, FINE. NEXT!

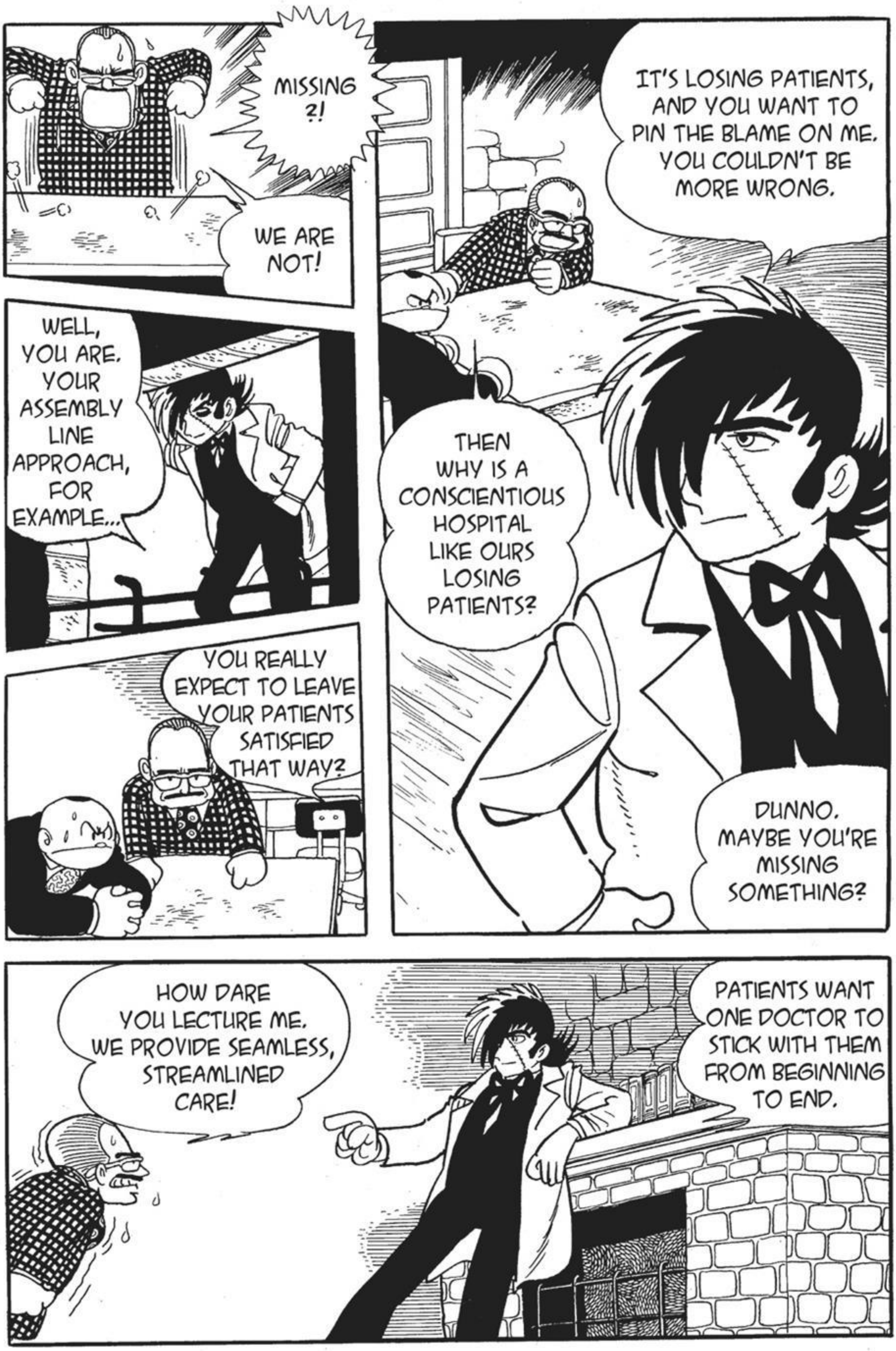
NOTE: "FORTY-SEVEN RONIN" ALLUDES TO *CHUSHINGURA*, A POPULAR FICTIONALIZED ACCOUNT OF HONORABLE VENGEANCE.

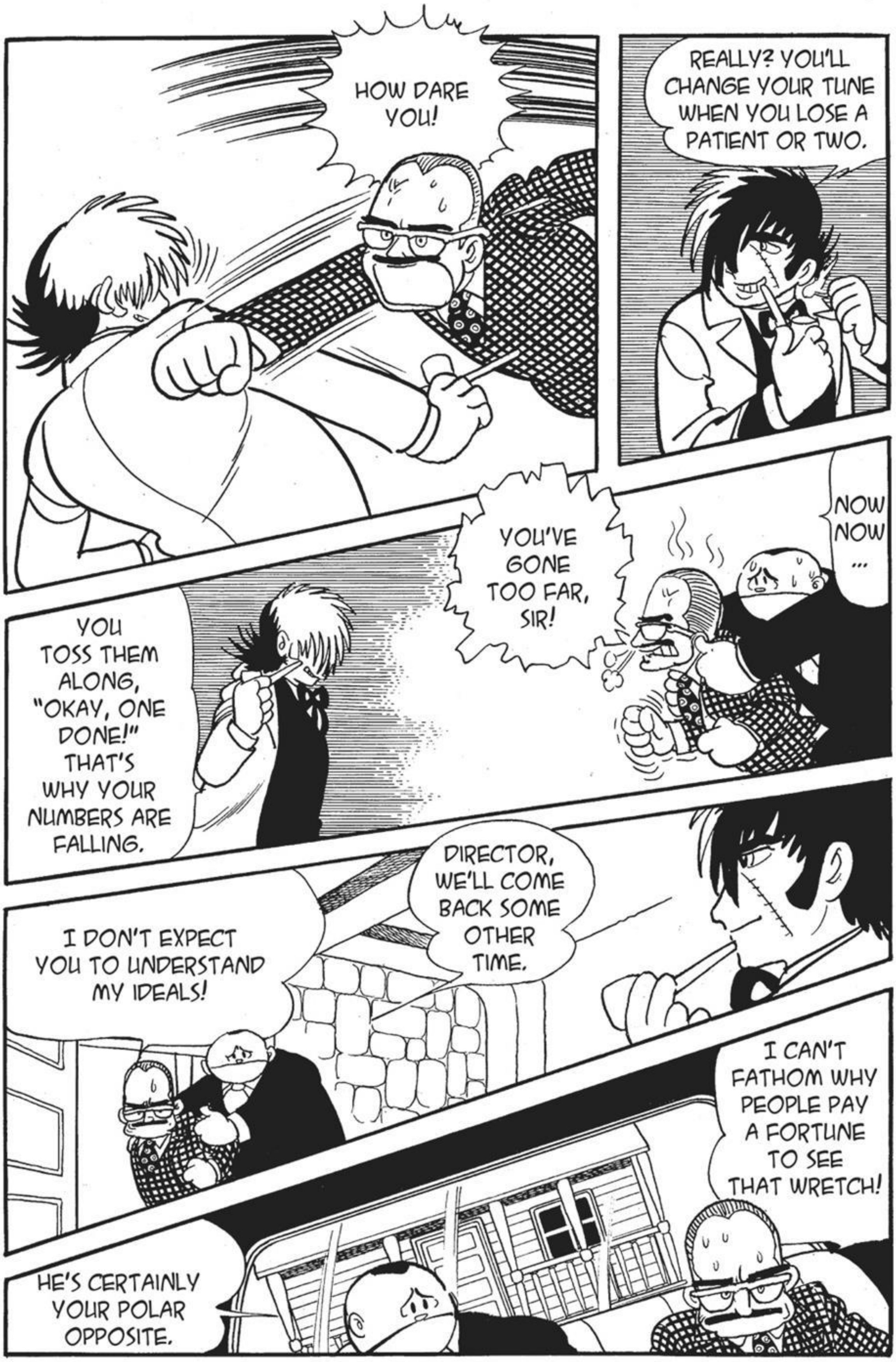

IT'S OUR POLICY: CHARGE ONLY THE MINIMUM FEES, AND NEVER TURN AWAY A PATIENT.
SO MY APPENDECTOMY IS JUST ONE OF THOSE FORTY-SEVEN... NOW THAT'S MASS PRODUCTION!
SO THAT'S WHAT THE DIRECTOR'S DOING... DOESN'T IT GET SLAPDASH?
NOT AT ALL! IT'S A VERY NEW METHOD. YOU'RE IN GOOD HANDS!
WE NEED TO EMPLOY AN ASSEMBLY LINE TO DIAGNOSE AND TREAT OVER 100 PATIENTS EACH DAY. IT'S THE SAME AS THOSE BARBERSHOPS WHERE THE TRIMMING, SHAMPOOING, AND SHAVING ARE HANDLED BY DIFFERENT PEOPLE.
DIRECTOR ...
YES, CHAIRMAN?
YOU HAVE JUST FIVE MINUTES.
THAT'S WAY TOO LITTLE...
YOU'RE WASTING PANELS, CHAIRMAN. WE ONLY HAVE SO MANY PAGES!

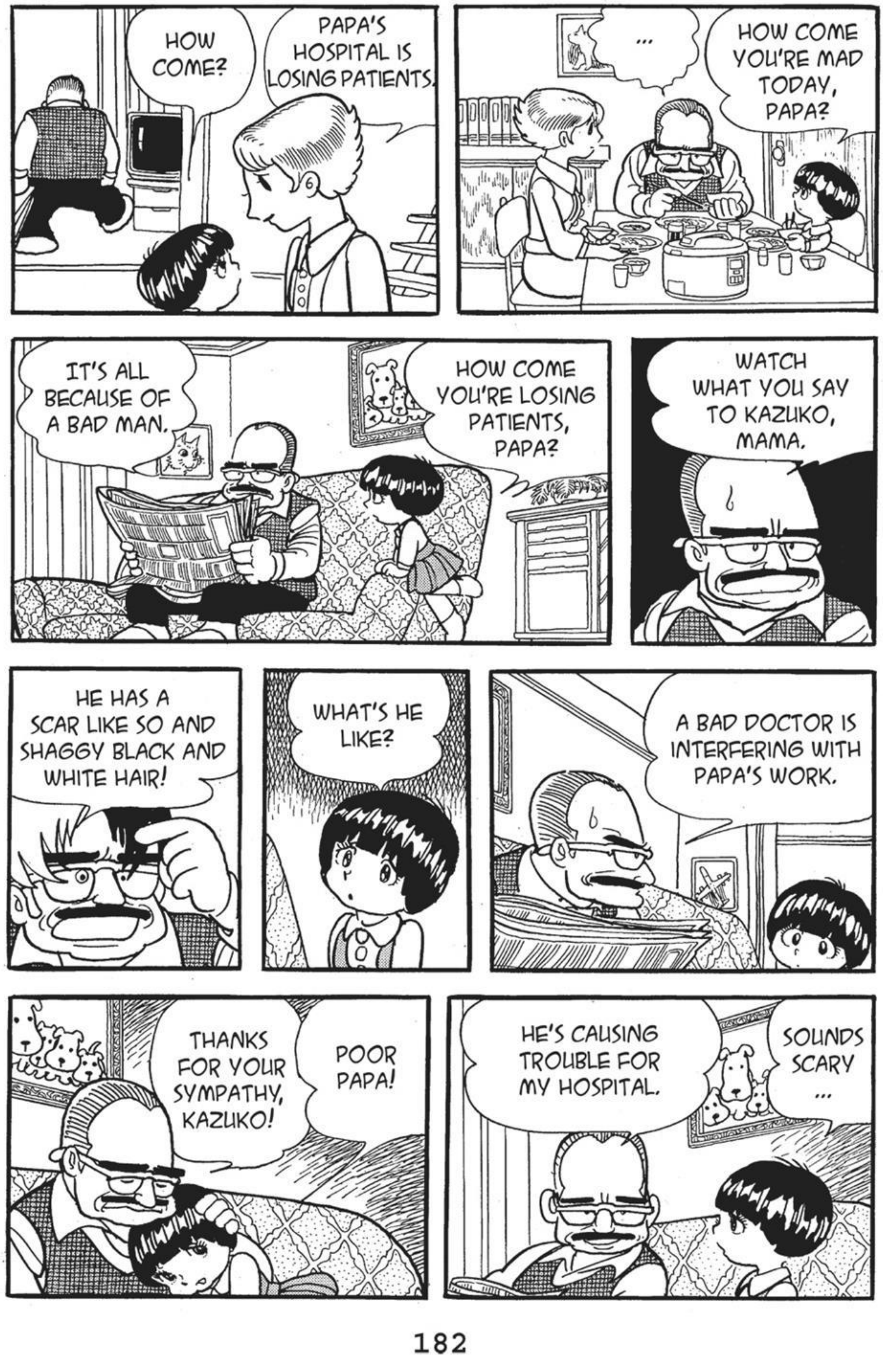

REVENUE DROPPED THIS MONTH.
AND LAST MONTH WAS WORSE THAN THE MONTH BEFORE!
WE'RE LOSING PATIENTS, DOCTOR!
I DOUBT THAT.
WE COULDN'T BE BUSIER!
THERE'S NO MISTAKE. OUR NUMBERS ARE GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
FUKUROKU HOSPITAL IS THE CHEAPEST AROUND AND WE GET THEM CURED.
WHY WOULD WE BE GETTING FEWER PATIENTS?
BUT ALAS, THAT'S THE TRUTH.
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL BE IN THE RED BEFORE LONG.
MEDICINE IS A HUMANITARIAN ART. MY WISH IS TO HEAL ANY COMER FOR MINIMAL FEES!
BUT CHAIRMAN! FUKUROKU OPERATES UPON A CONVICTION !!
I CAN'T FATHOM WHAT'S DAMAGING OUR REPUTATION.
THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION!

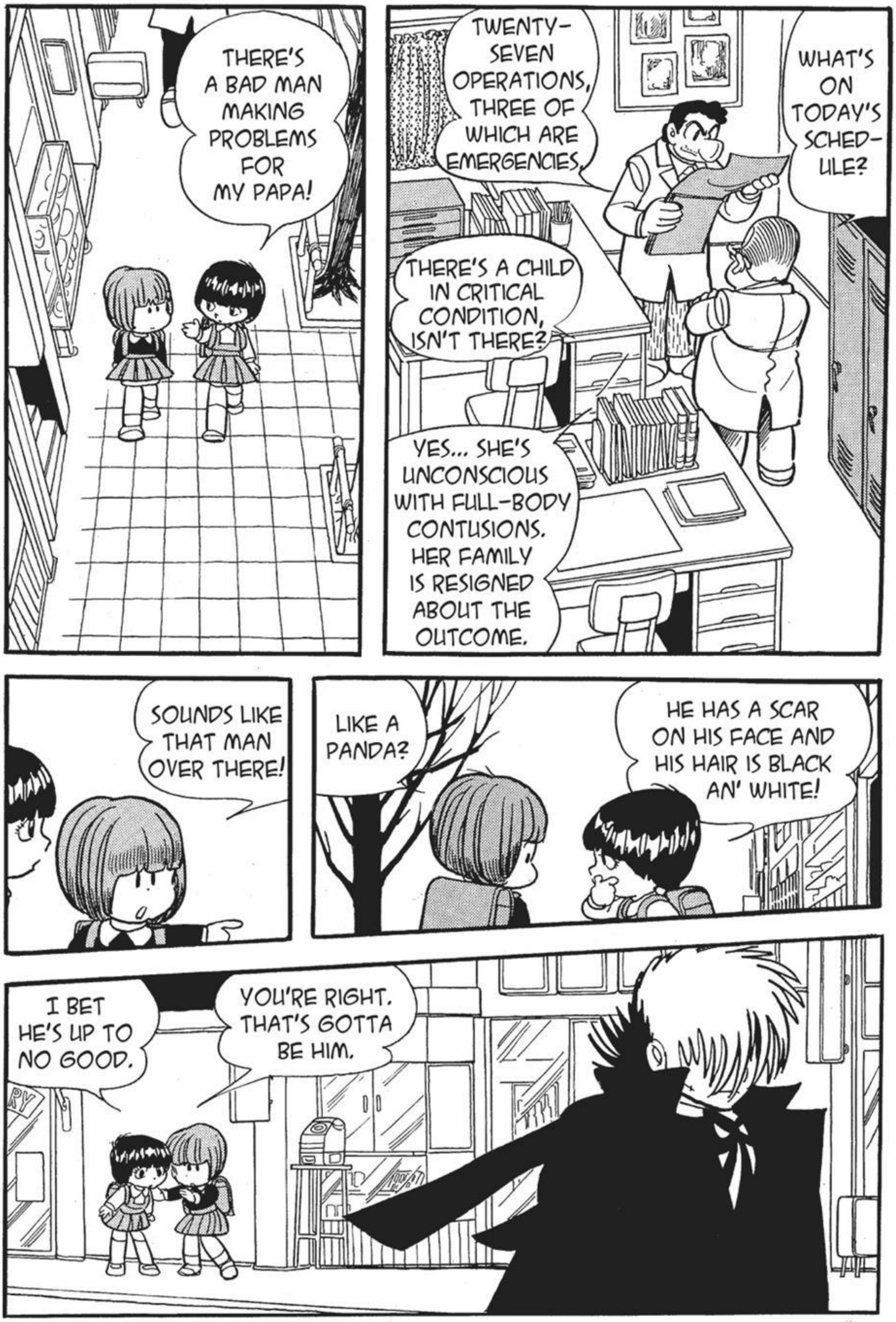

FUKUROKU HOSPITAL
福祿病院
THERE'S A DOCTOR IN THE NEXT TOWN CALLED BLACK JACK WHO WORKS WITHOUT A LICENSE.
HE CHARGES CRIMINALLY HIGH FEES AND HAS GOTTEN A TERRIBLE REP FOR IT.
HE'S THE ONE GIVING DOCTORS A BAD NAME IN THIS TOWN!
OUR PATIENTS WILL COME BACK IF WE CAN REESTABLISH THEIR FAITH IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION!
WE HAVE TO GET TOUGH WITH HIM! WE'LL CALL THE POLICE IF HE WON'T LOWER HIS FEES!
STILL, TRYING TO HOUND HIM OUT...
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?

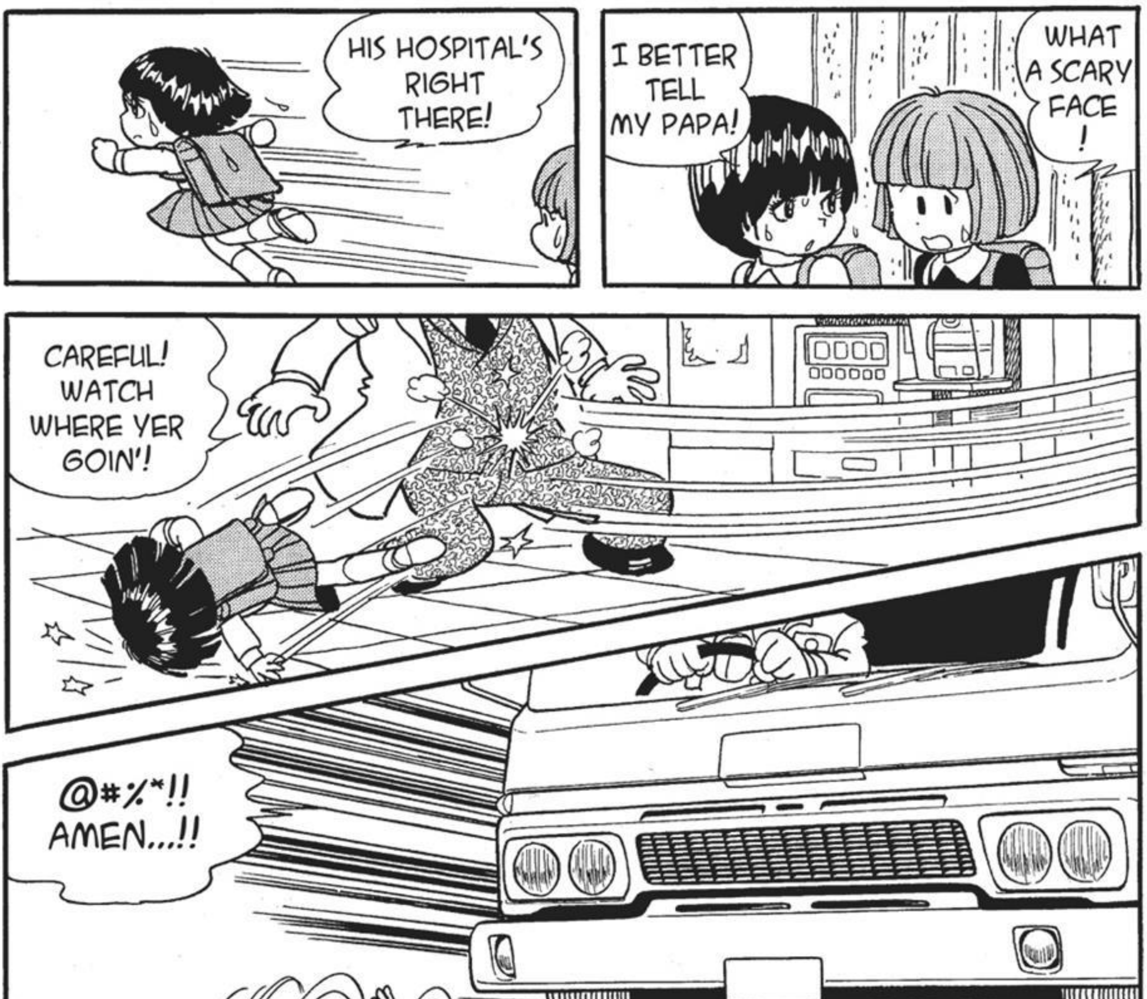

YOU PRACTICE ILLEGALLY, DON'T YOU?
WE COULD HAVE YOU THROWN IN JAIL!
BEEN THERE, DONE THAT.
I'LL BE OUT AGAIN IN A JIFFY.
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF HAVING YOUR LICENSE PERMANENTLY REVOKED?
OH, THAT. I'M UNLICENSED, REMEMBER?
YOU SCOUNDREL!
YOU'RE INCORRIGIBLE ...
YOU GO CHARGE YOUR PATIENTS UNCONSCIONABLE FEES AND IT HURTS HONORABLE, AFFORDABLE INSTITUTIONS LIKE OURS!
IS "CHEAP" REALLY SUCH A GOOD THING?
WHAT ?!
YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR IN THIS WORLD!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.
ABOUT YOUR HOSPITAL ...

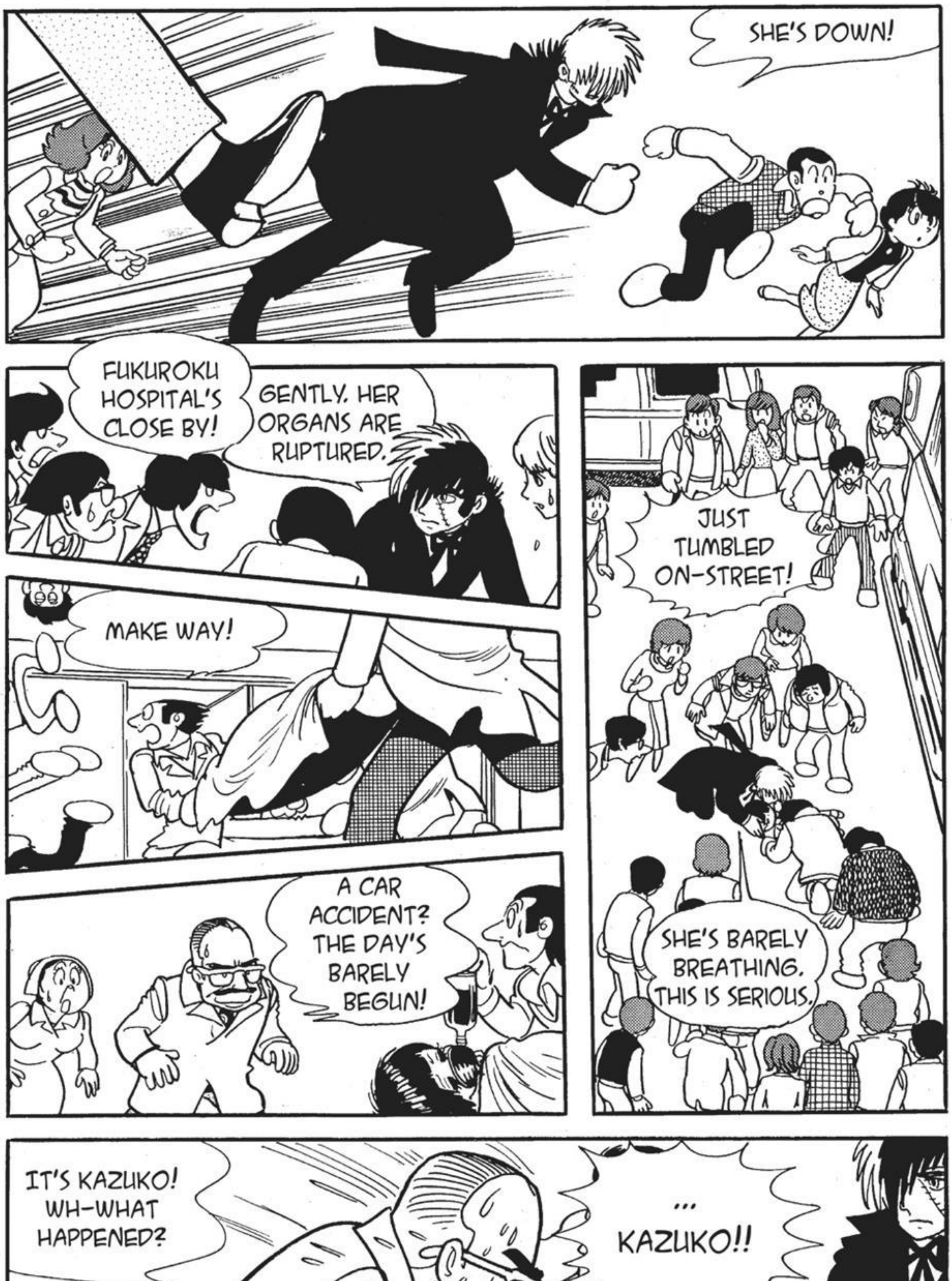

IT'S LOSING PATIENTS, AND YOU WANT TO PIN THE BLAME ON ME. YOU COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG.
THEN WHY IS A CONSCIENTIOUS HOSPITAL LIKE OURS LOSING PATIENTS?
DUNNO. MAYBE YOU'RE MISSING SOMETHING?
MISSING ?!
WE ARE NOT!
WELL, YOU ARE. YOUR ASSEMBLY LINE APPROACH, FOR EXAMPLE...
YOU REALLY EXPECT TO LEAVE YOUR PATIENTS SATISFIED THAT WAY?
PATIENTS WANT ONE DOCTOR TO STICK WITH THEM FROM BEGINNING TO END.
HOW DARE YOU LECTURE ME. WE PROVIDE SEAMLESS, STREAMLINED CARE!

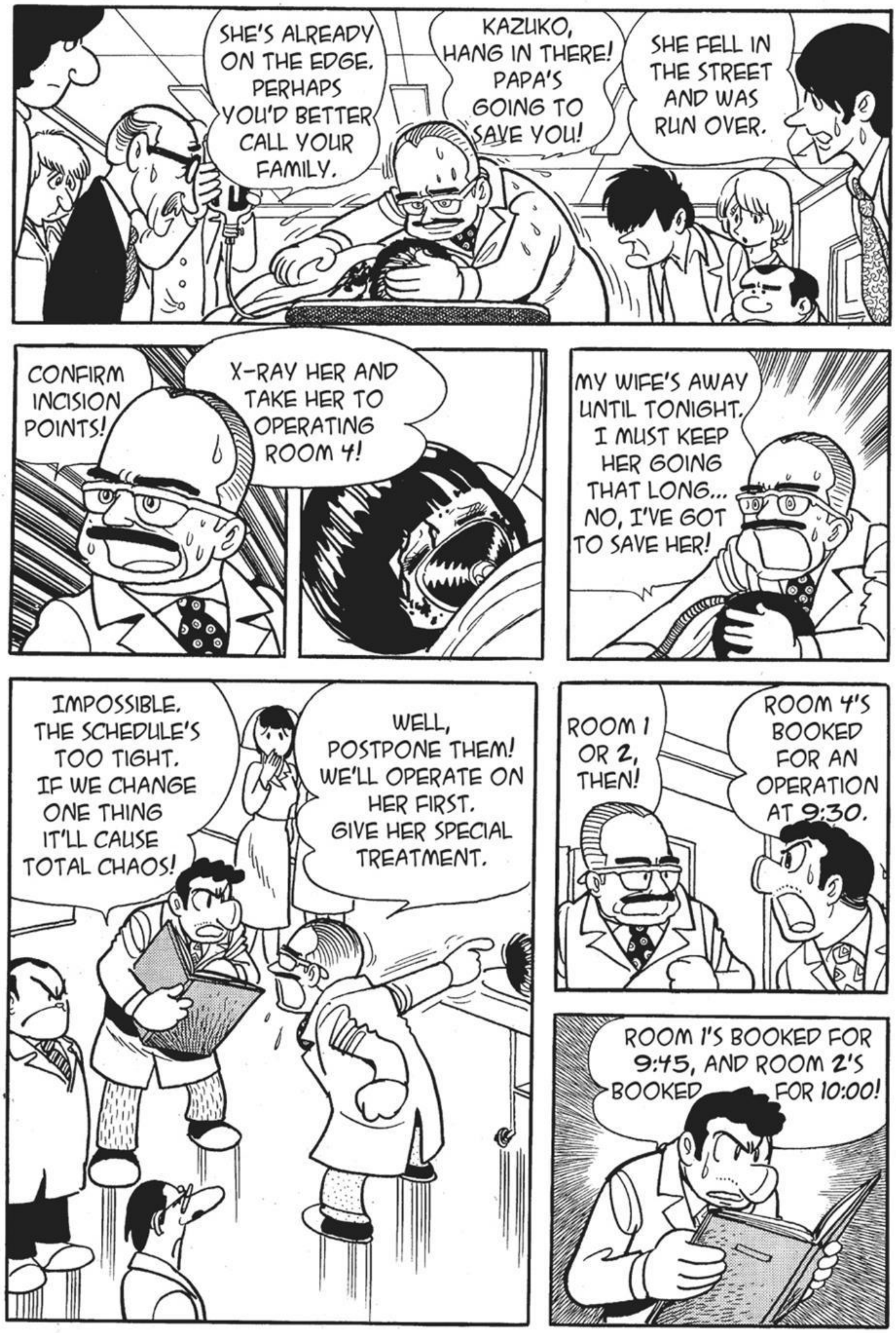

HOW DARE YOU!
REALLY? YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR TUNE WHEN YOU LOSE A PATIENT OR TWO.
YOU TOSS THEM ALONG, "OKAY, ONE DONE!" THAT'S WHY YOUR NUMBERS ARE FALLING.
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR, SIR!
NOW NOW ...
I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND MY IDEALS!
DIRECTOR, WE'LL COME BACK SOME OTHER TIME.
I CAN'T FATHOM WHY PEOPLE PAY A FORTUNE TO SEE THAT WRETCH!
HE'S CERTAINLY YOUR POLAR OPPOSITE.

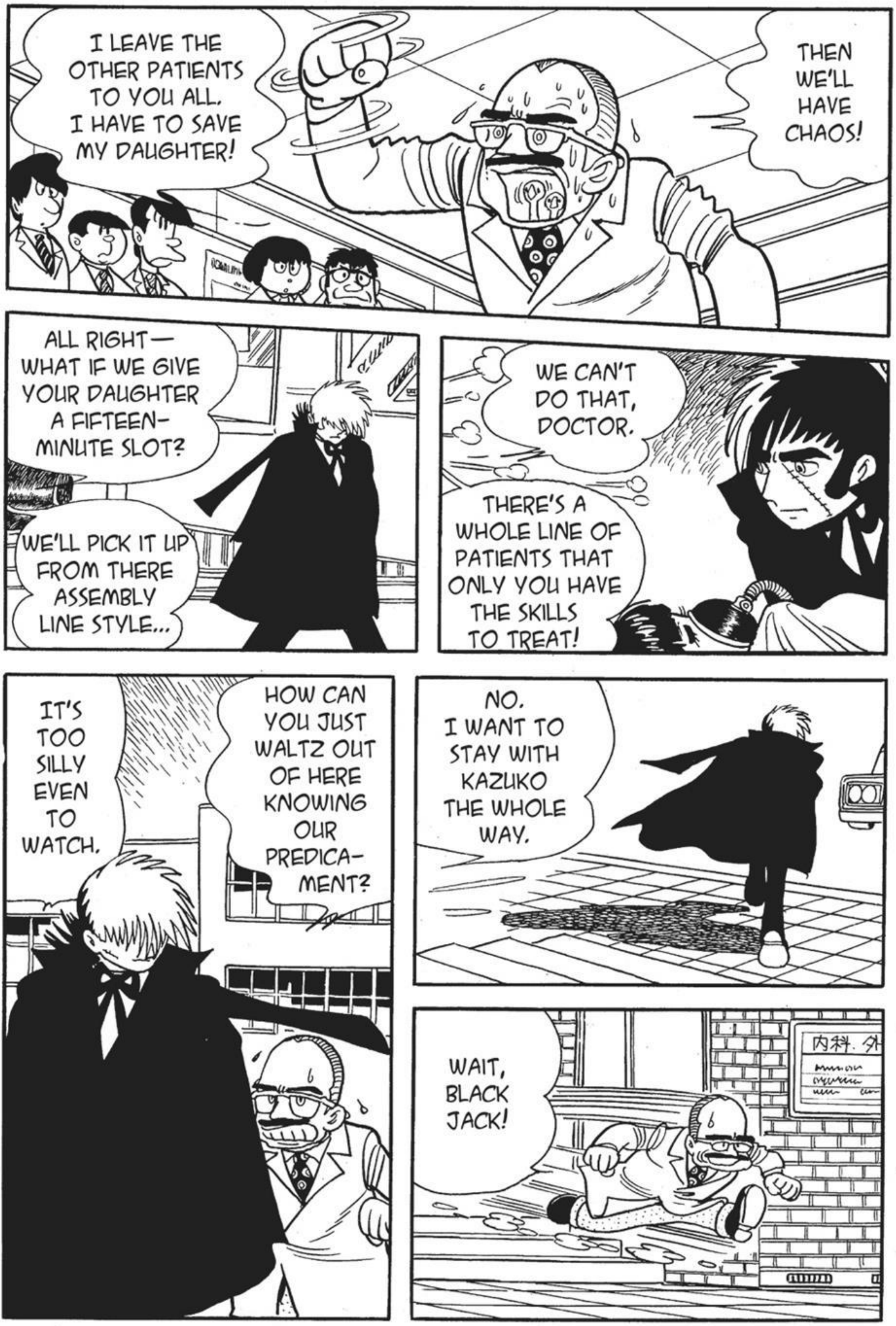

HOW COME YOU'RE MAD TODAY, PAPA?
...
PAPA'S HOSPITAL IS LOSING PATIENTS.
HOW COME?
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY TO KAZUKO, MAMA.
HOW COME YOU'RE LOSING PATIENTS, PAPA?
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF A BAD MAN.
A BAD DOCTOR IS INTERFERING WITH PAPA'S WORK.
WHAT'S HE LIKE?
HE HAS A SCAR LIKE SO AND SHAGGY BLACK AND WHITE HAIR!
SOUNDS SCARY ...
HE'S CAUSING TROUBLE FOR MY HOSPITAL.
POOR PAPA!
THANKS FOR YOUR SYMPATHY, KAZUKO!

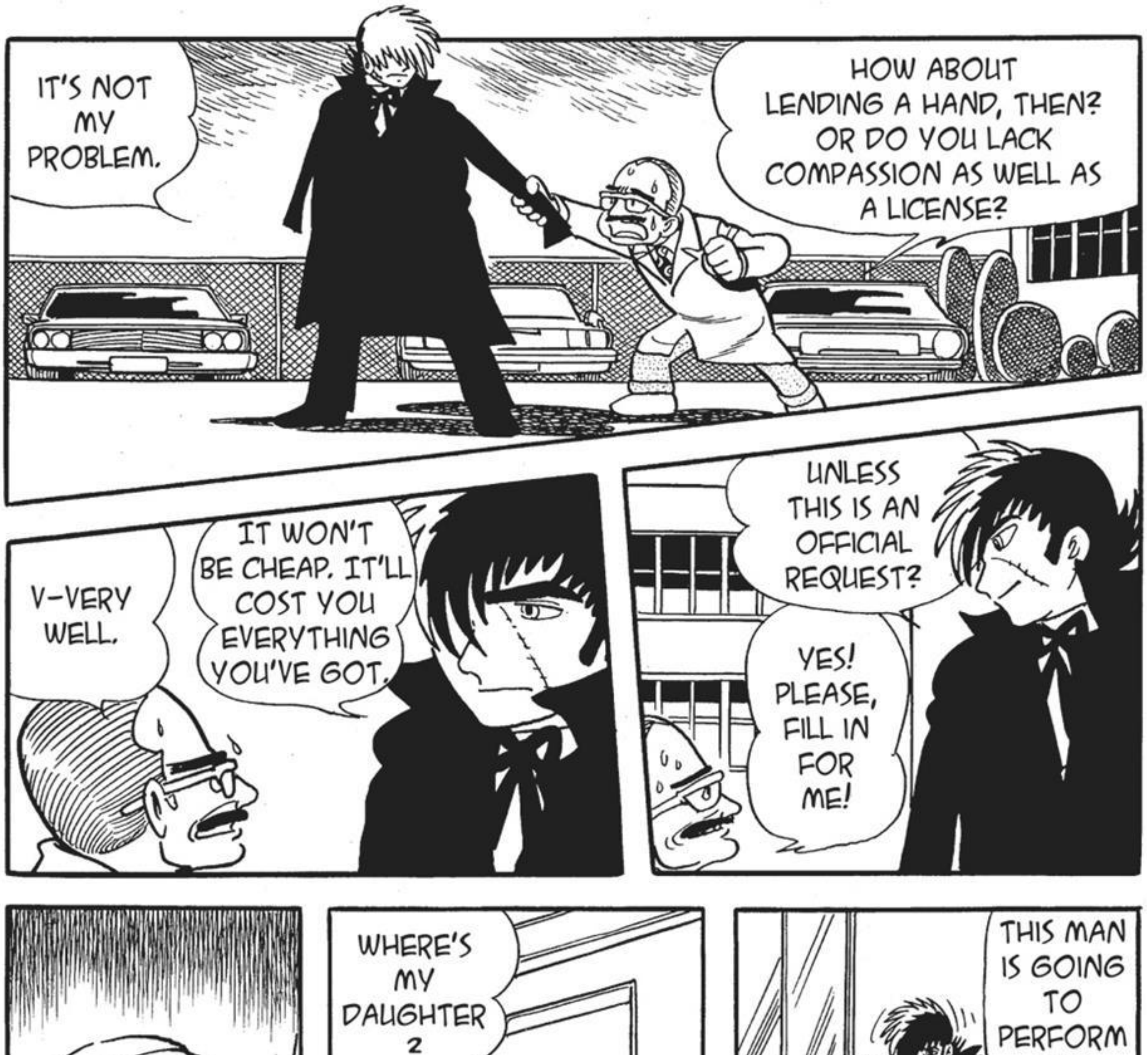

WHAT'S ON TODAY'S SCHEDULE?
TWENTY-SEVEN OPERATIONS, THREE OF WHICH ARE EMERGENCIES.
THERE'S A CHILD IN CRITICAL CONDITION, ISN'T THERE?
YES... SHE'S UNCONSCIOUS WITH FULL-BODY CONTUSIONS. HER FAMILY IS RESIGNED ABOUT THE OUTCOME.
THERE'S A BAD MAN MAKING PROBLEMS FOR MY PAPA!
HE HAS A SCAR ON HIS FACE AND HIS HAIR IS BLACK AN' WHITE!
LIKE A PANDA?
SOUNDS LIKE THAT MAN OVER THERE!
YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT'S GOTTA BE HIM.
I BET HE'S UP TO NO GOOD.
RY

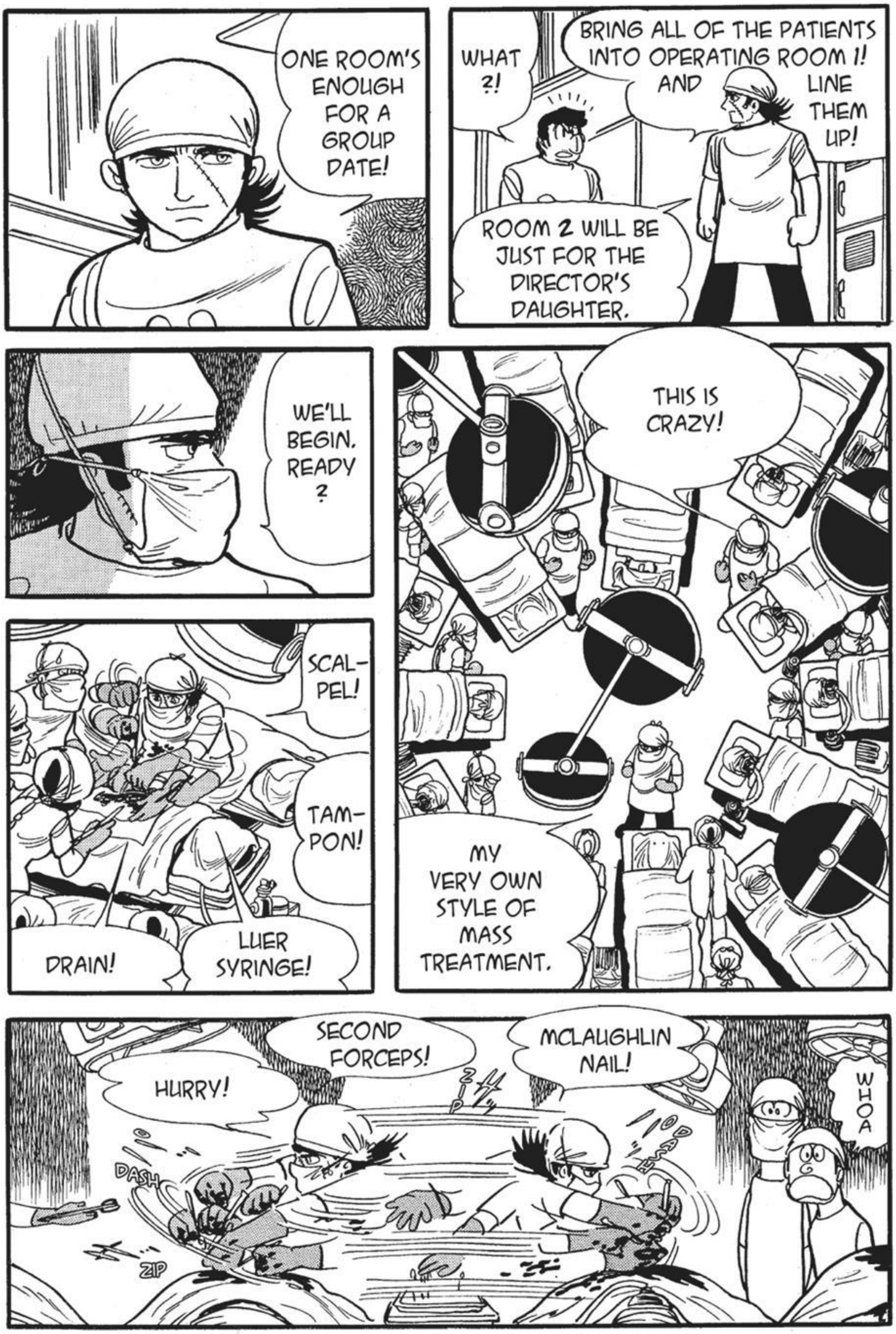

WHAT A SCARY FACE!
I BETTER TELL MY PAPA!
HIS HOSPITAL'S RIGHT THERE!
CAREFUL! WATCH WHERE YER GOIN'!
@#%*!! AMEN...!!
SKREEE

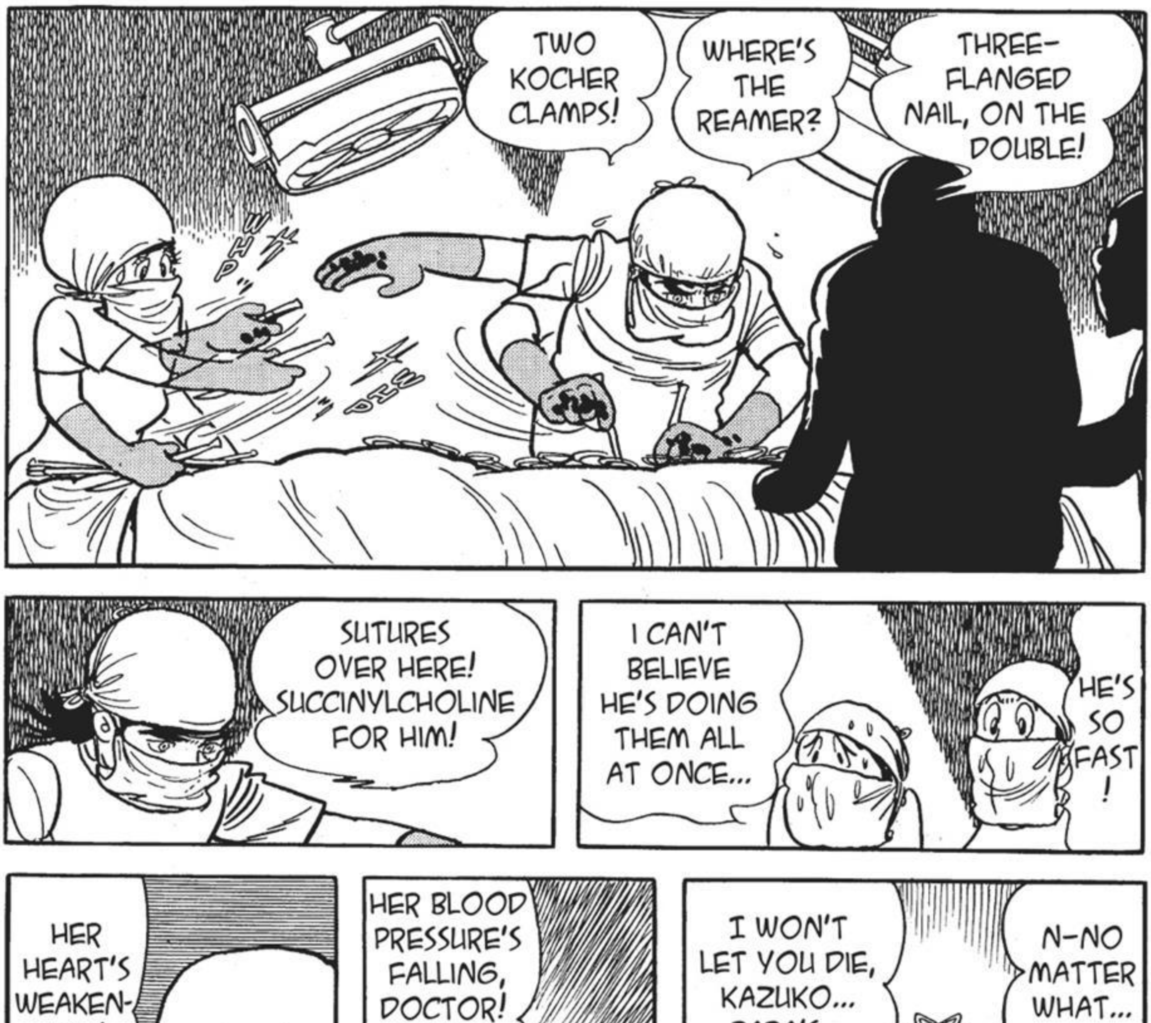

SHE'S DOWN!
JUST TUMBLED ON-STREET!
SHE'S BARELY BREATHING. THIS IS SERIOUS.
GENTLY. HER ORGANS ARE RUPTURED.
FUKUROKU HOSPITAL'S CLOSE BY!
MAKE WAY!
A CAR ACCIDENT? THE DAY'S BARELY BEGUN!
... KAZUKO!!
IT'S KAZUKO! WH-WHAT HAPPENED?

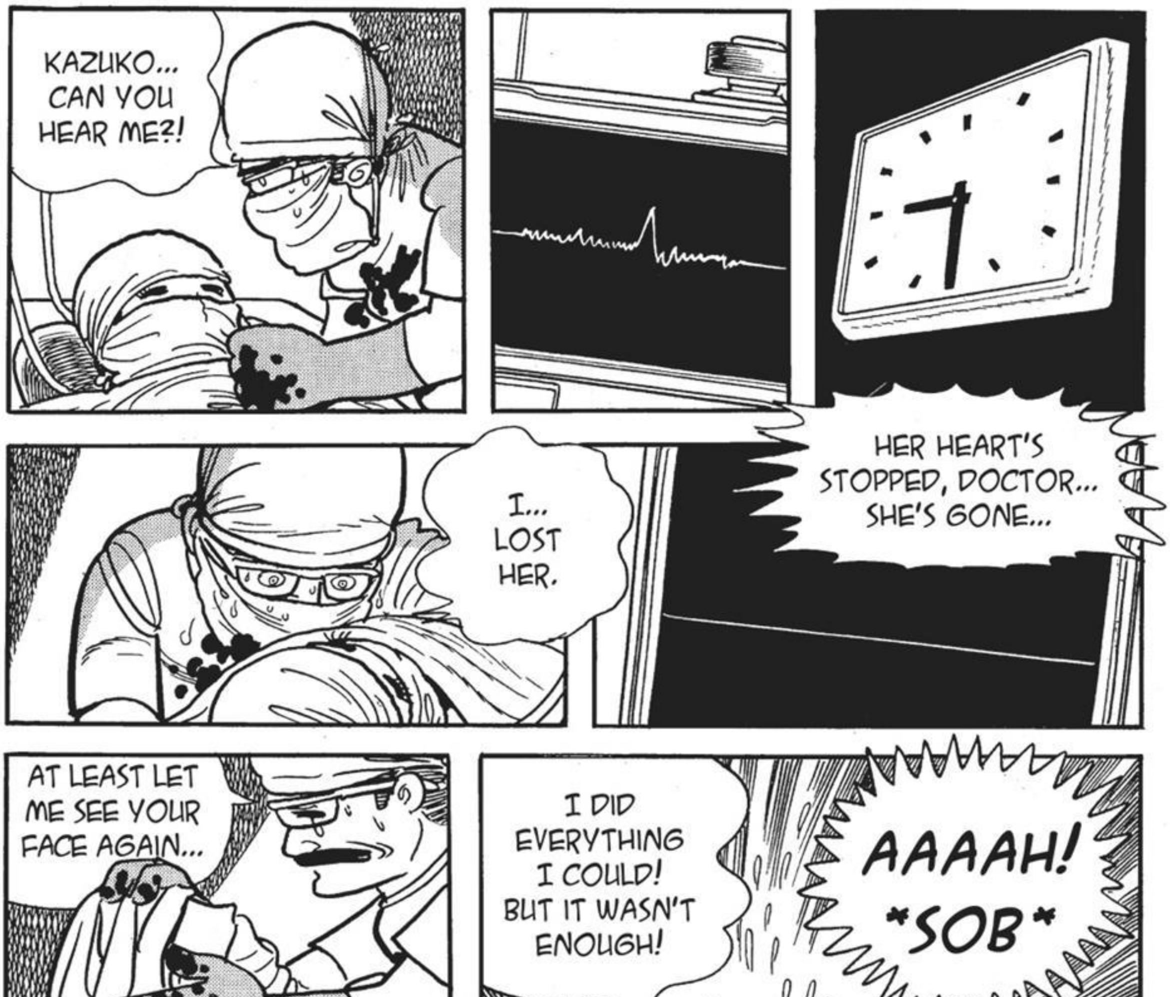

SHE FELL IN THE STREET AND WAS RUN OVER.
KAZUKO, HANG IN THERE! PAPA'S GOING TO SAVE YOU!
SHE'S ALREADY ON THE EDGE. PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER CALL YOUR FAMILY.
MY WIFE'S AWAY UNTIL TONIGHT. I MUST KEEP HER GOING THAT LONG... NO, I'VE GOT TO SAVE HER!
X-RAY HER AND TAKE HER TO OPERATING ROOM 4!
CONFIRM INCISION POINTS!
ROOM 4'S BOOKED FOR AN OPERATION AT 9:30.
ROOM 1 OR 2, THEN!
ROOM 1'S BOOKED FOR 9:45, AND ROOM 2'S BOOKED FOR 10:00!
WELL, POSTPONE THEM! WE'LL OPERATE ON HER FIRST. GIVE HER SPECIAL TREATMENT.
IMPOSSIBLE. THE SCHEDULE'S TOO TIGHT. IF WE CHANGE ONE THING IT'LL CAUSE TOTAL CHAOS!

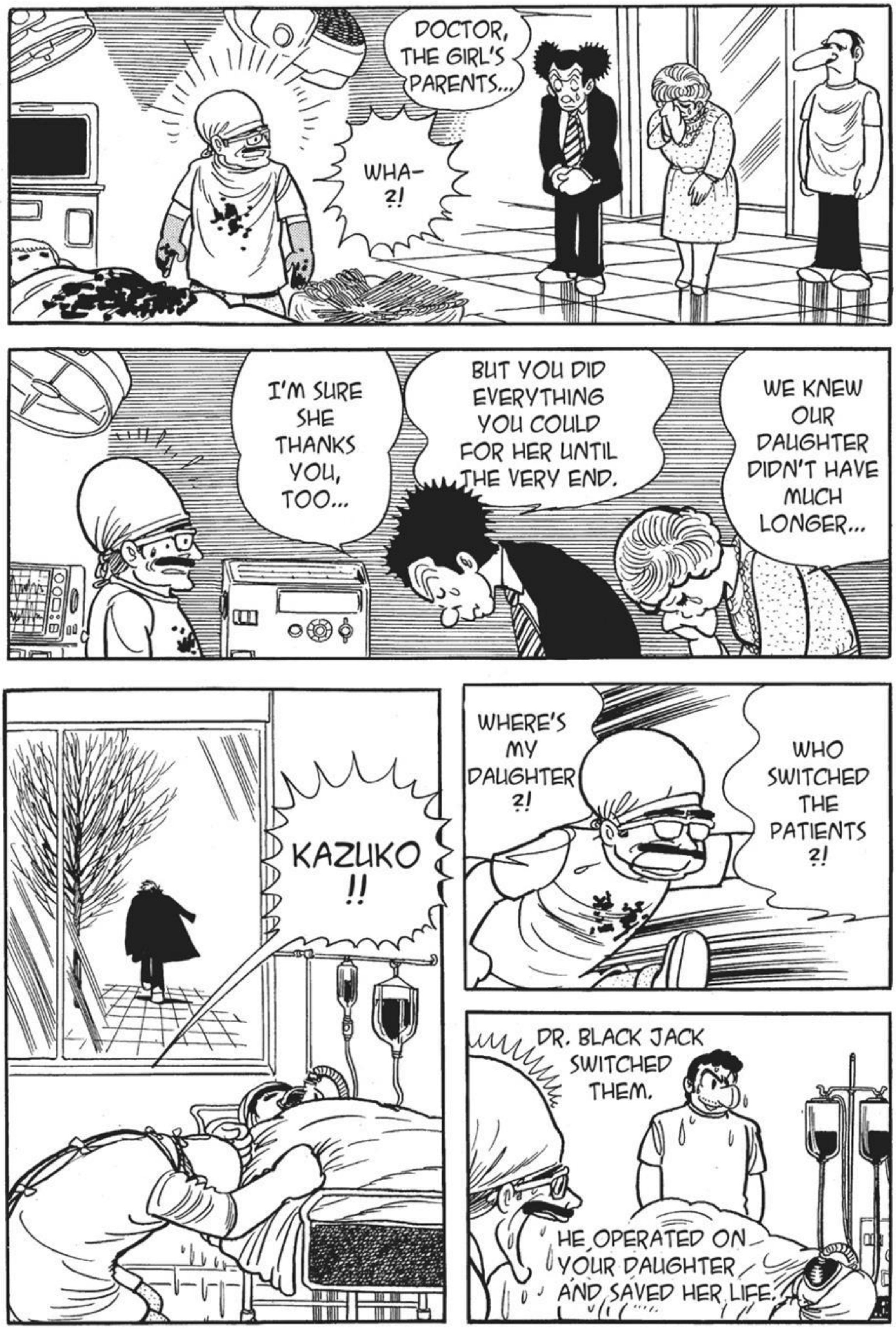

I LEAVE THE OTHER PATIENTS TO YOU ALL. I HAVE TO SAVE MY DAUGHTER!
THEN WE'LL HAVE CHAOS!
ALL RIGHT— WHAT IF WE GIVE YOUR DAUGHTER A FIFTEEN-MINUTE SLOT?
WE'LL PICK IT UP FROM THERE ASSEMBLY LINE STYLE...
WE CAN'T DO THAT, DOCTOR.
THERE'S A WHOLE LINE OF PATIENTS THAT ONLY YOU HAVE THE SKILLS TO TREAT!
IT'S TOO SILLY EVEN TO WATCH.
HOW CAN YOU JUST WALTZ OUT OF HERE KNOWING OUR PREDICAMENT?
NO. I WANT TO STAY WITH KAZUKO THE WHOLE WAY.
内科. 外
WAIT, BLACK JACK!


IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM.
HOW ABOUT LENDING A HAND, THEN? OR DO YOU LACK COMPASSION AS WELL AS A LICENSE?
UNLESS THIS IS AN OFFICIAL REQUEST?
YES! PLEASE, FILL IN FOR ME!
IT WON'T BE CHEAP. IT'LL COST YOU EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT.
V-VERY WELL.
THIS MAN IS GOING TO PERFORM THE SURGERIES. SHOW HIM ALL THE CHARTS AND X-RAYS IMMEDIATELY.
Y... YESSIR.
WHERE'S MY DAUGHTER?
KAZUKO! PAPA'S GOING TO DEVOTE ALL OF HIS TIME TO YOU!
I SWEAR I'LL MAKE YOU BETTER!

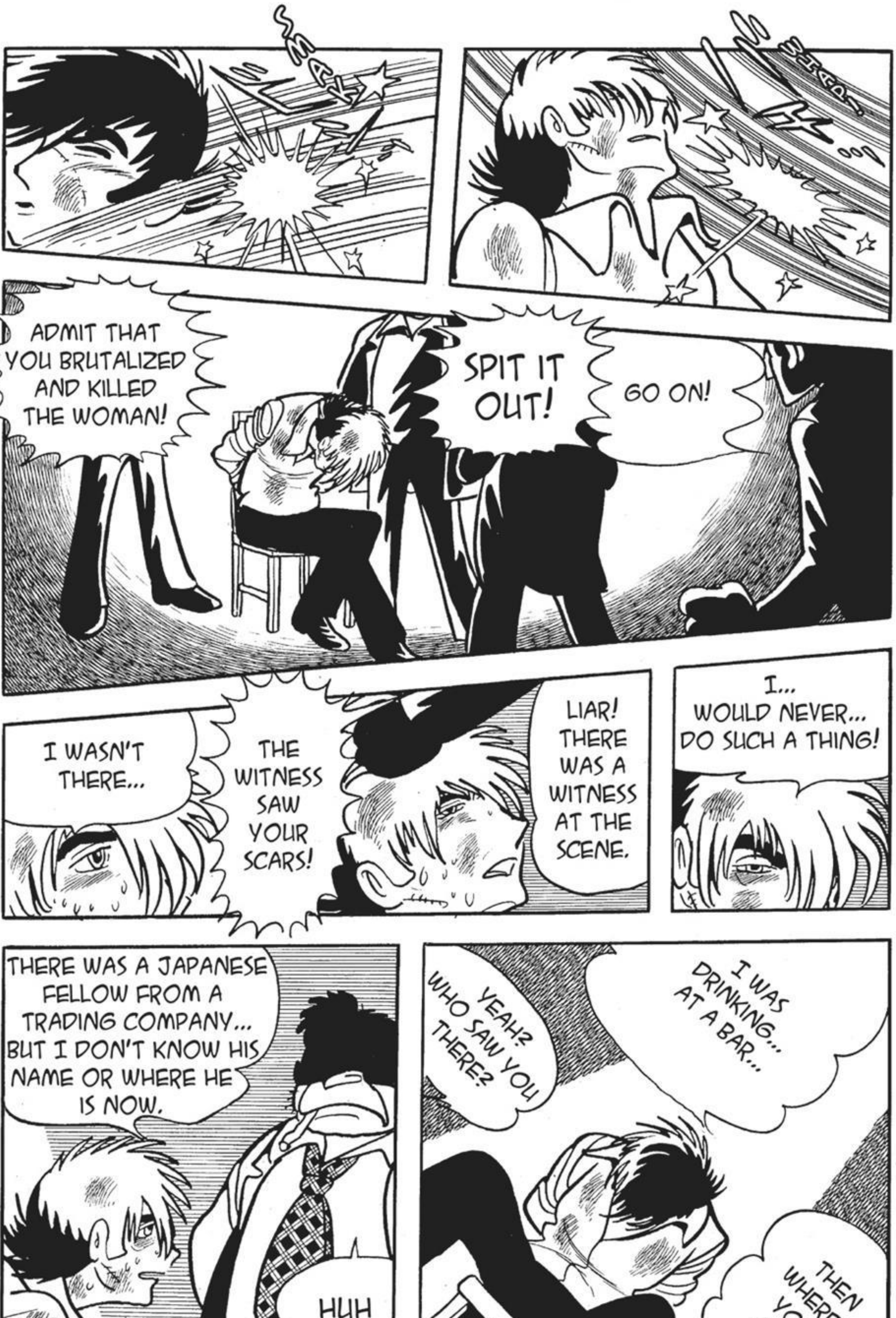

ONE ROOM'S ENOUGH FOR A GROUP DATE!
WHAT ?!
BRING ALL OF THE PATIENTS INTO OPERATING ROOM 1! AND LINE THEM UP!
ROOM 2 WILL BE JUST FOR THE DIRECTOR'S DAUGHTER.
WE'LL BEGIN. READY ?
THIS IS CRAZY!
SCAL-PEL!
TAM-PON!
DRAIN!
LUER SYRINGE!
MY VERY OWN STYLE OF MASS TREATMENT.
HURRY!
SECOND FORCEPS!
MCLAUGHLIN NAIL!
WHOA
ZIP
DASH
DASH
ZIP

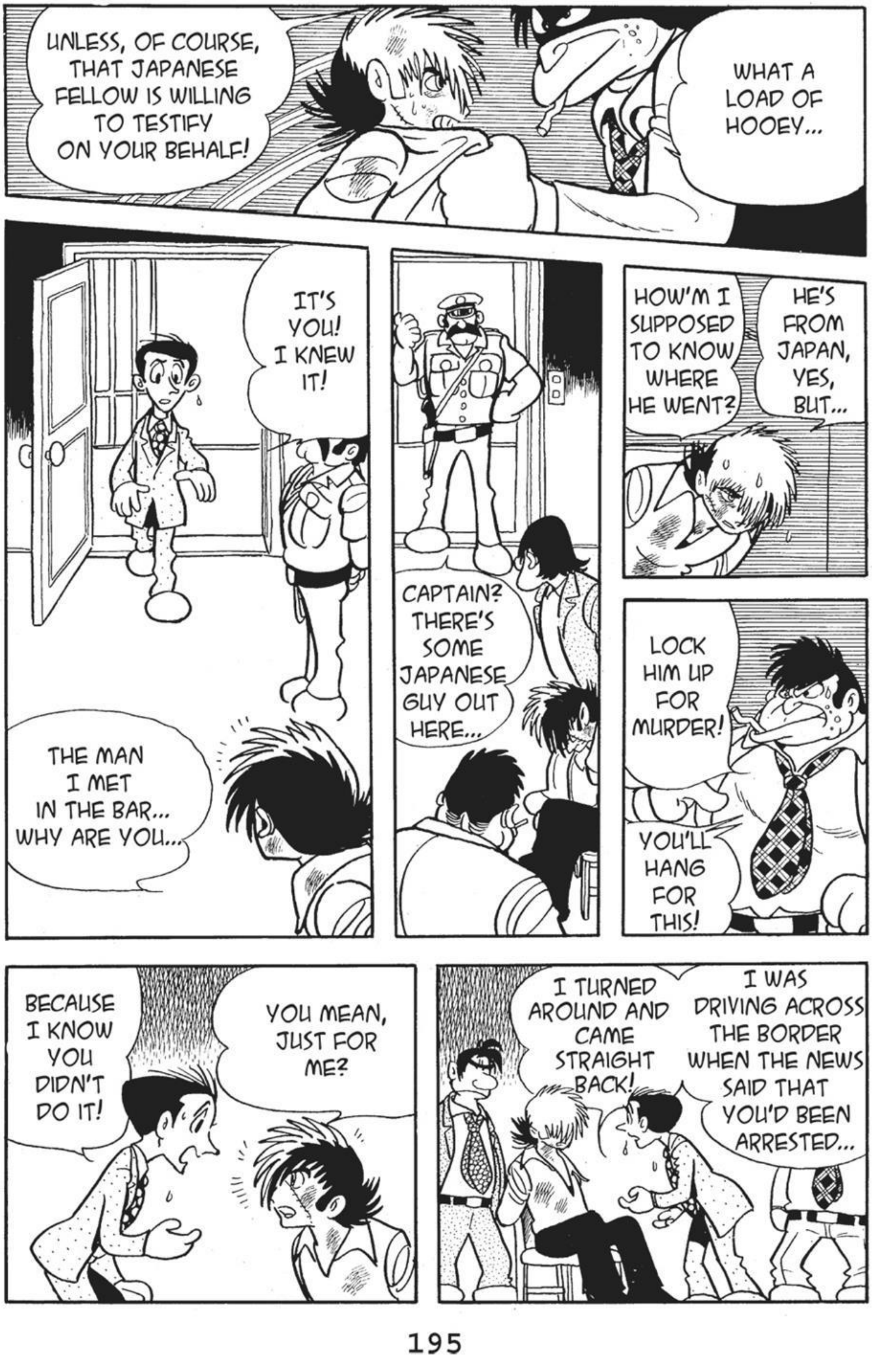

TWO KOCHER CLAMPS!
WHERE'S THE REAMER?
THREE-FLANGED NAIL, ON THE DOUBLE!
WHIP
WHIP
SUTURES OVER HERE! SUCCINYLCHOLINE FOR HIM!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DOING THEM ALL AT ONCE...
HE'S SO FAST!
HER HEART'S WEAKENING!
OH, GOD!
HER BLOOD PRESSURE'S FALLING, DOCTOR! SHE'S IN DANGER.
I WON'T LET YOU DIE, KAZUKO... PAPA'S HERE...
N-NO MATTER WHAT...
PLEASE... PLEASE... DON'T DIE... I'M BEGGING YOU...
PUMP
PUMP
PUMP
GIVE HER ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION.
IS THIS THE END...?

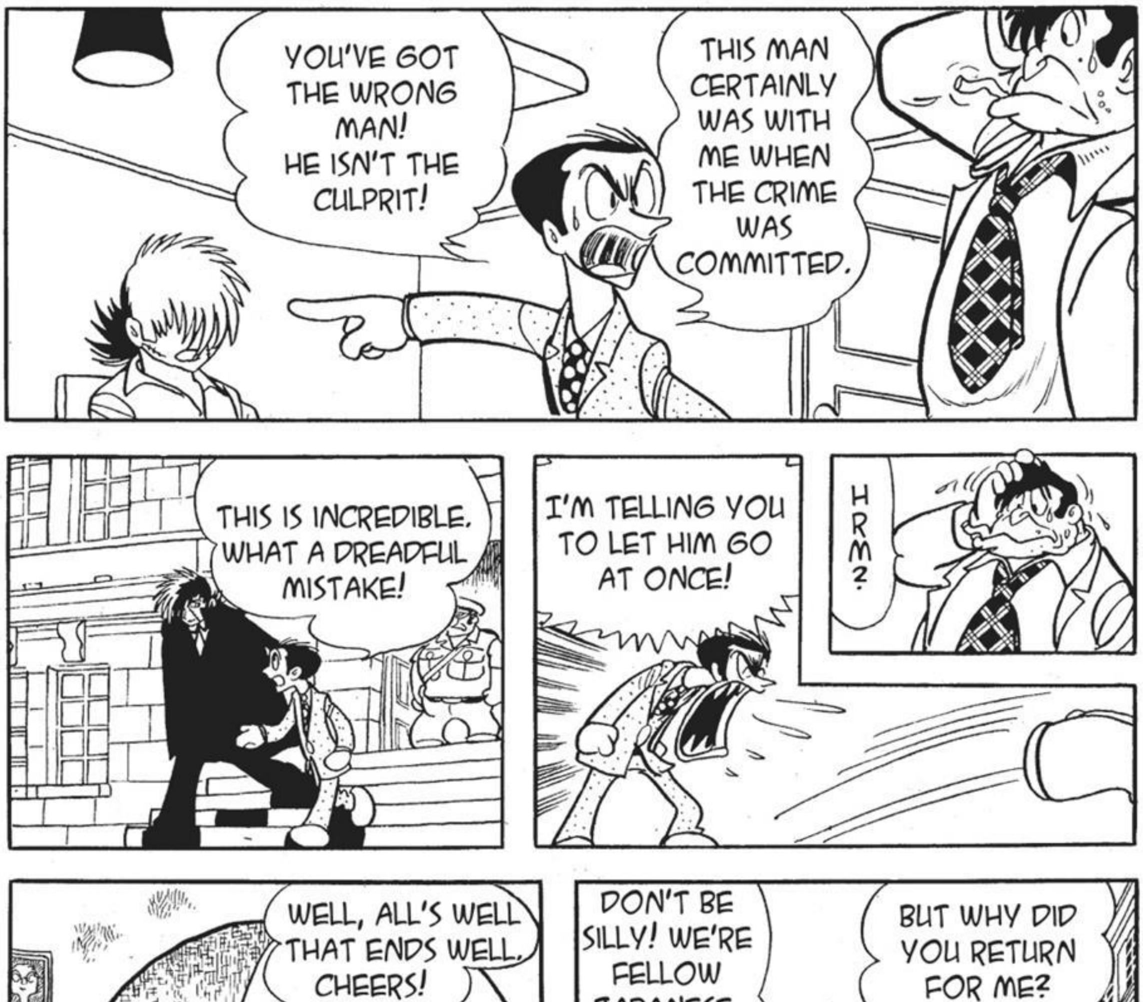

KAZUKO... CAN YOU HEAR ME?!
HER HEART'S STOPPED, DOCTOR... SHE'S GONE...
I... LOST HER.
AT LEAST LET ME SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN...
I DID EVERYTHING I COULD! BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH!
AAAAH! *SOB*
IF ONLY I COULD TRADE MY LIFE FOR YOURS...
SHE... IT'S NOT MY DAUGHTER!!

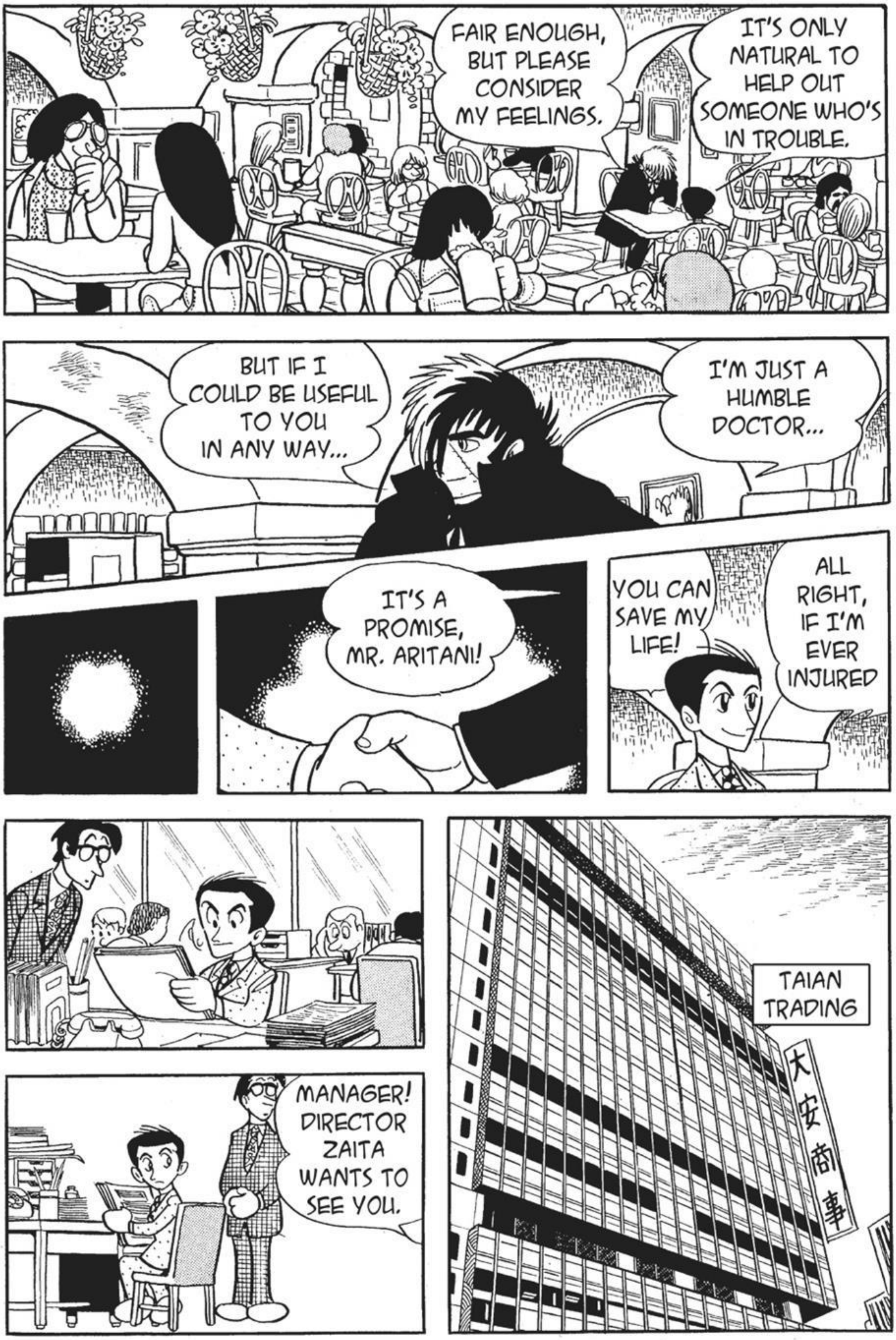

DOCTOR, THE GIRL'S PARENTS...
WHA-?!
WE KNEW OUR DAUGHTER DIDN'T HAVE MUCH LONGER...
BUT YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD FOR HER UNTIL THE VERY END.
I'M SURE SHE THANKS YOU, TOO...
WHO SWITCHED THE PATIENTS?!
WHERE'S MY DAUGHTER?!
DR. BLACK JACK SWITCHED THEM.
HE OPERATED ON YOUR DAUGHTER AND SAVED HER LIFE.
KAZUKO!!

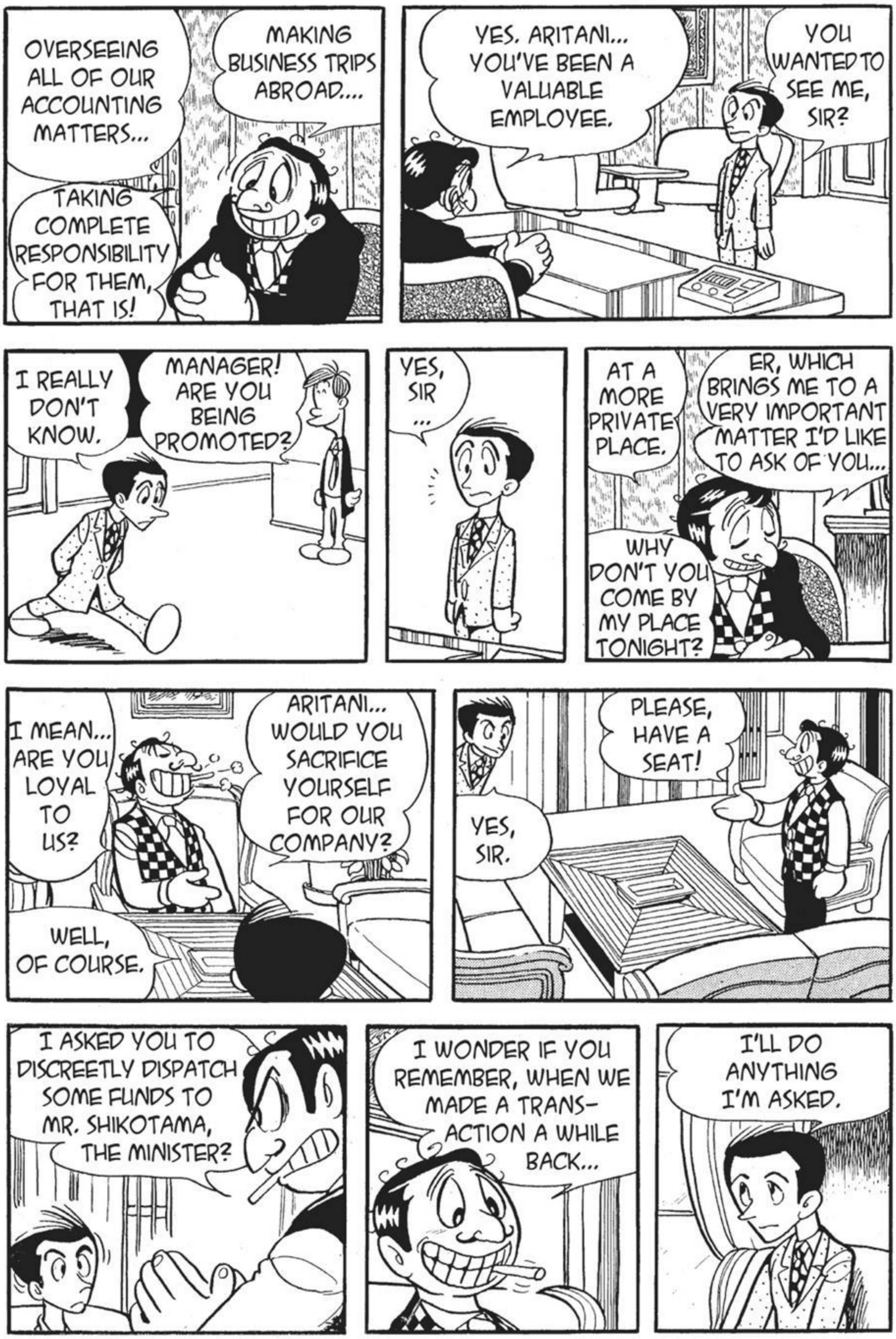
HELPING EACH OTHER

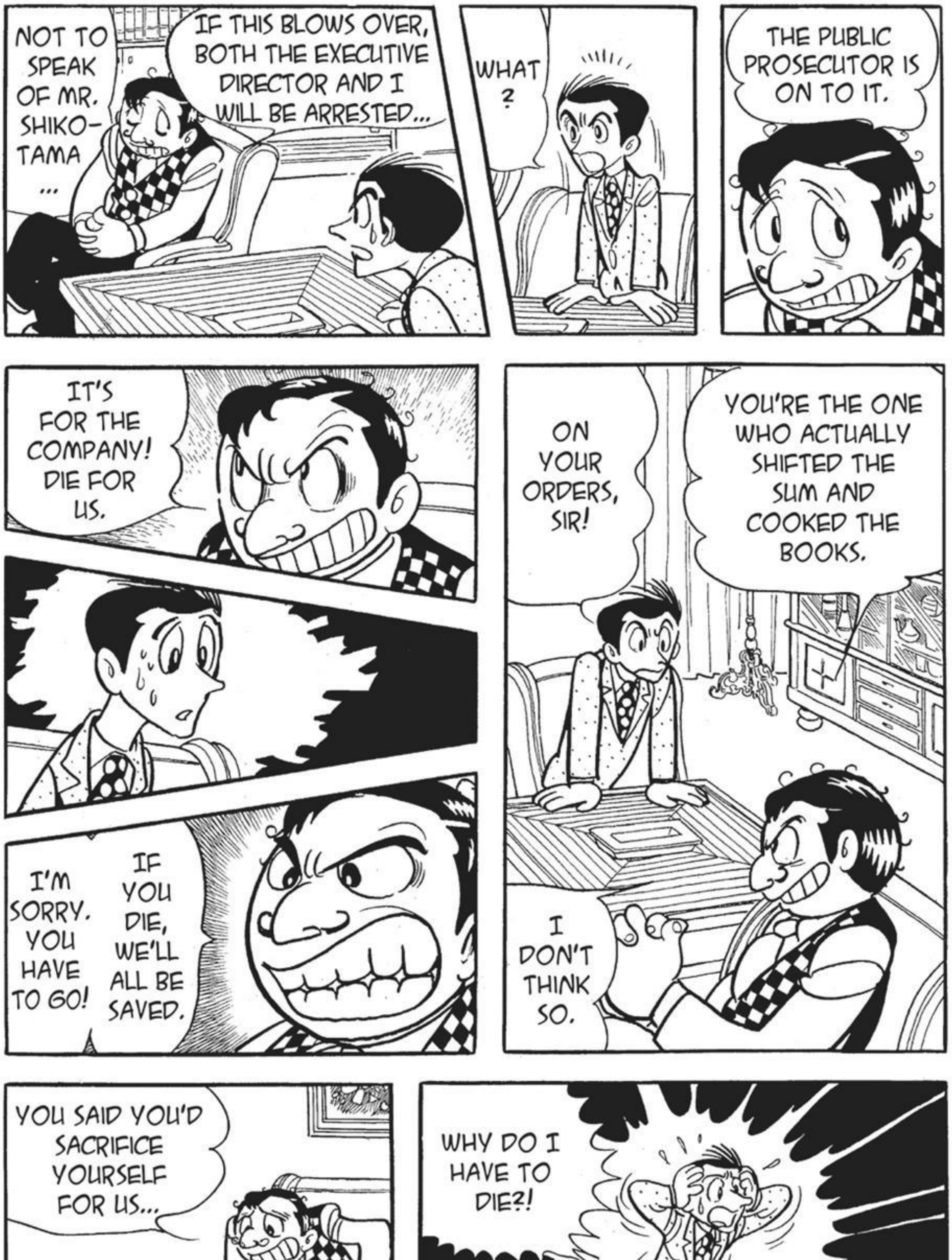

BLAM!
SMACK
GO ON!
SPIT IT OUT!
ADMIT THAT YOU BRUTALIZED AND KILLED THE WOMAN!
I... WOULD NEVER... DO SUCH A THING!
LIAR! THERE WAS A WITNESS AT THE SCENE.
THE WITNESS SAW YOUR SCARS!
I WASN'T THERE...
THEN WHERE'S YOUR ALIBI!?
I WAS DRINKING... AT A BAR...
YEAH? WHO SAW YOU THERE?
THERE WAS A JAPANESE FELLOW FROM A TRADING COMPANY... BUT I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME OR WHERE HE IS NOW.
HUH!

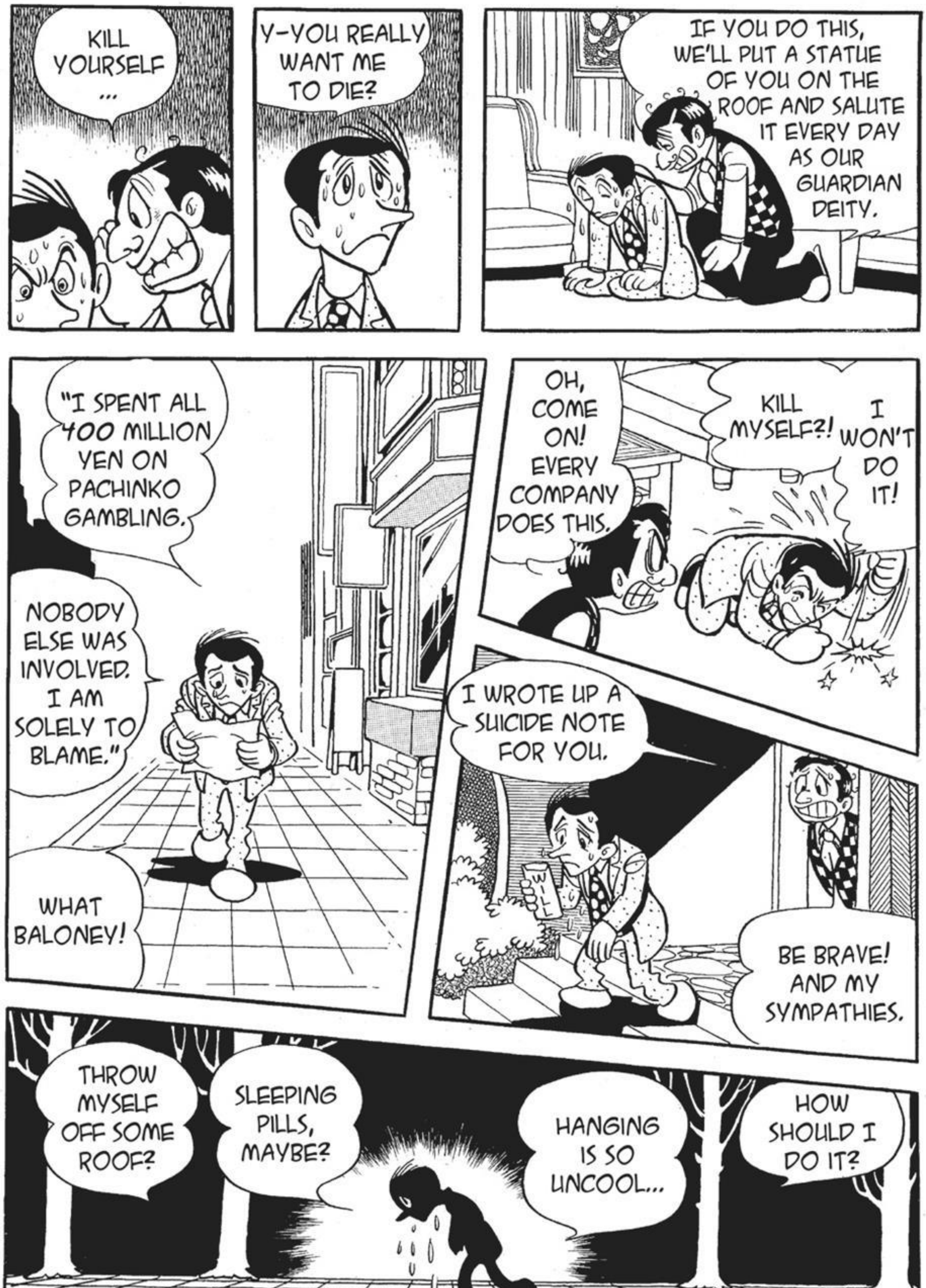

WHAT A LOAD OF HOOEY...
UNLESS, OF COURSE, THAT JAPANESE FELLOW IS WILLING TO TESTIFY ON YOUR BEHALF!
HE'S FROM JAPAN, YES, BUT...
HOW'M I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHERE HE WENT?
LOCK HIM UP FOR MURDER!
YOU'LL HANG FOR THIS!
CAPTAIN? THERE'S SOME JAPANESE GUY OUT HERE...
IT'S YOU! I KNEW IT!
THE MAN I MET IN THE BAR... WHY ARE YOU...
I WAS DRIVING ACROSS THE BORDER WHEN THE NEWS SAID THAT YOU'D BEEN ARRESTED...
I TURNED AROUND AND CAME STRAIGHT BACK!
YOU MEAN, JUST FOR ME?
BECAUSE I KNOW YOU DIDN'T DO IT!

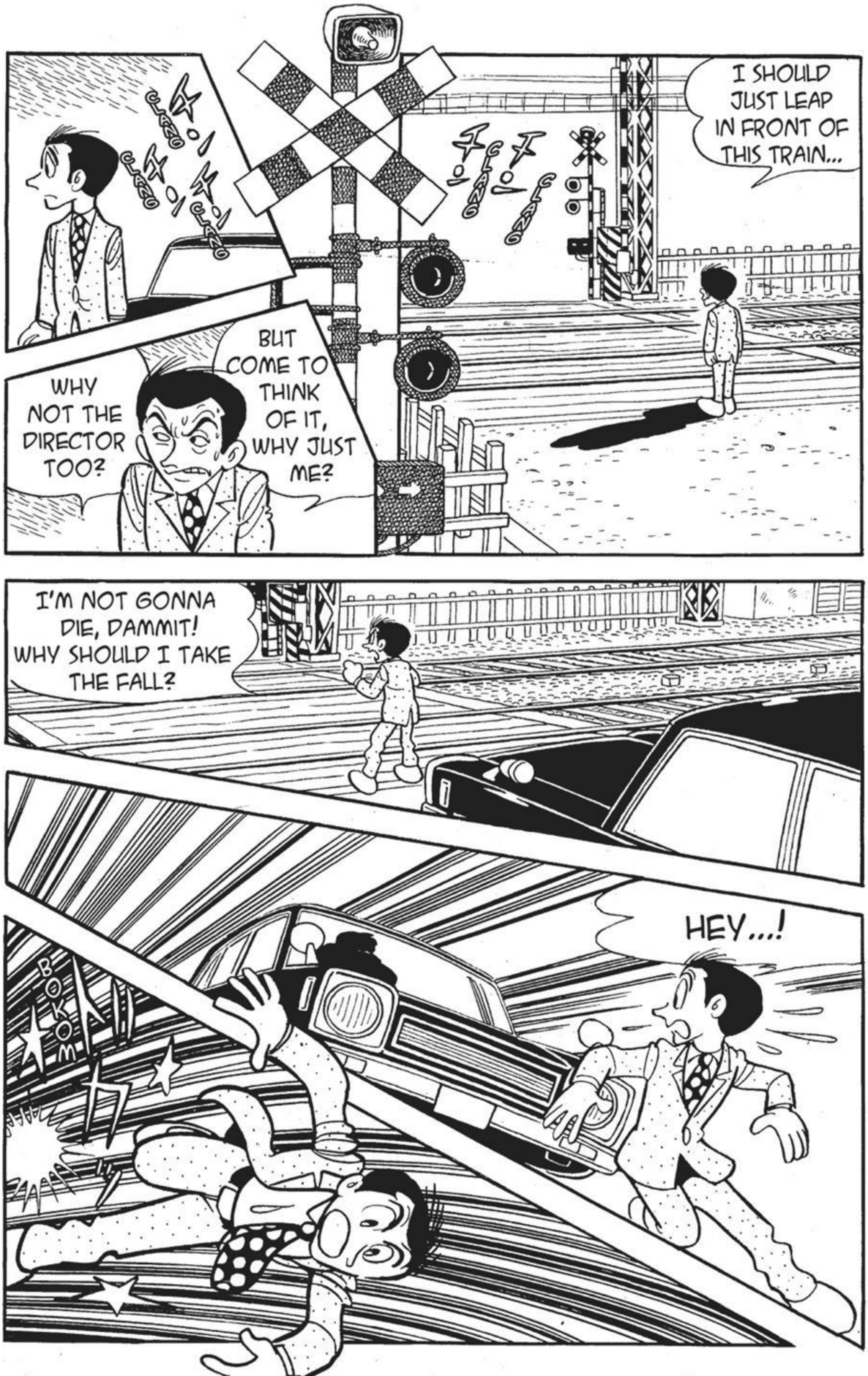

THIS MAN CERTAINLY WAS WITH ME WHEN THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED.
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG MAN! HE ISN'T THE CULPRIT!
HRM?
I'M TELLING YOU TO LET HIM GO AT ONCE!
THIS IS INCREDIBLE. WHAT A DREADFUL MISTAKE!
BUT WHY DID YOU RETURN FOR ME?
DON'T BE SILLY! WE'RE FELLOW JAPANESE, AREN'T WE?
WELL, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. CHEERS!
PLEASE, LET ME COMPENSATE YOU FOR SAVING ME.
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

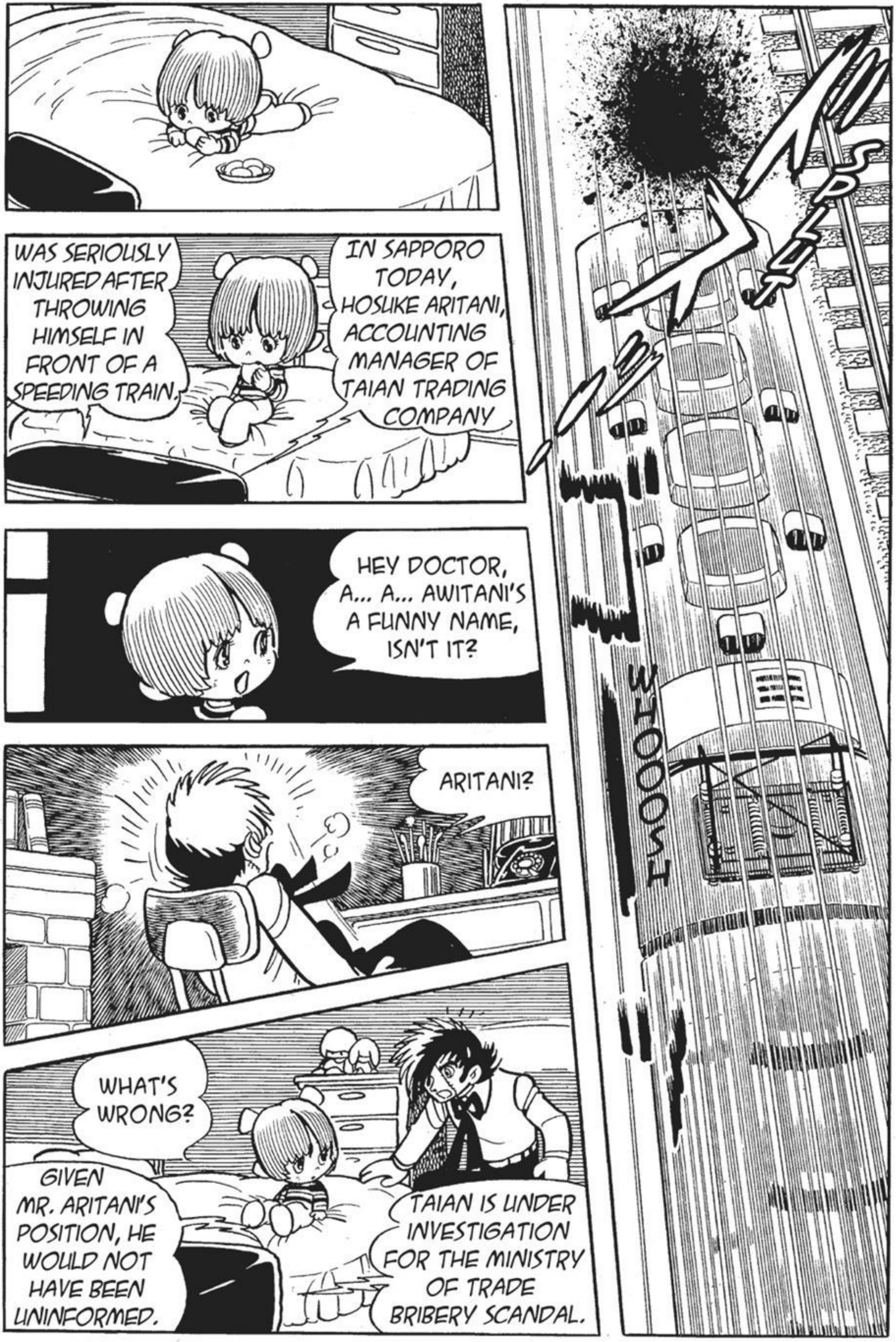

IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO HELP OUT SOMEONE WHO'S IN TROUBLE.
FAIR ENOUGH, BUT PLEASE CONSIDER MY FEELINGS.
I'M JUST A HUMBLE DOCTOR...
BUT IF I COULD BE USEFUL TO YOU IN ANY WAY...
ALL RIGHT, IF I'M EVER INJURED
YOU CAN SAVE MY LIFE!
IT'S A PROMISE, MR. ARITANI!
TAIAN TRADING
大安商事
MANAGER! DIRECTOR ZAITA WANTS TO SEE YOU.

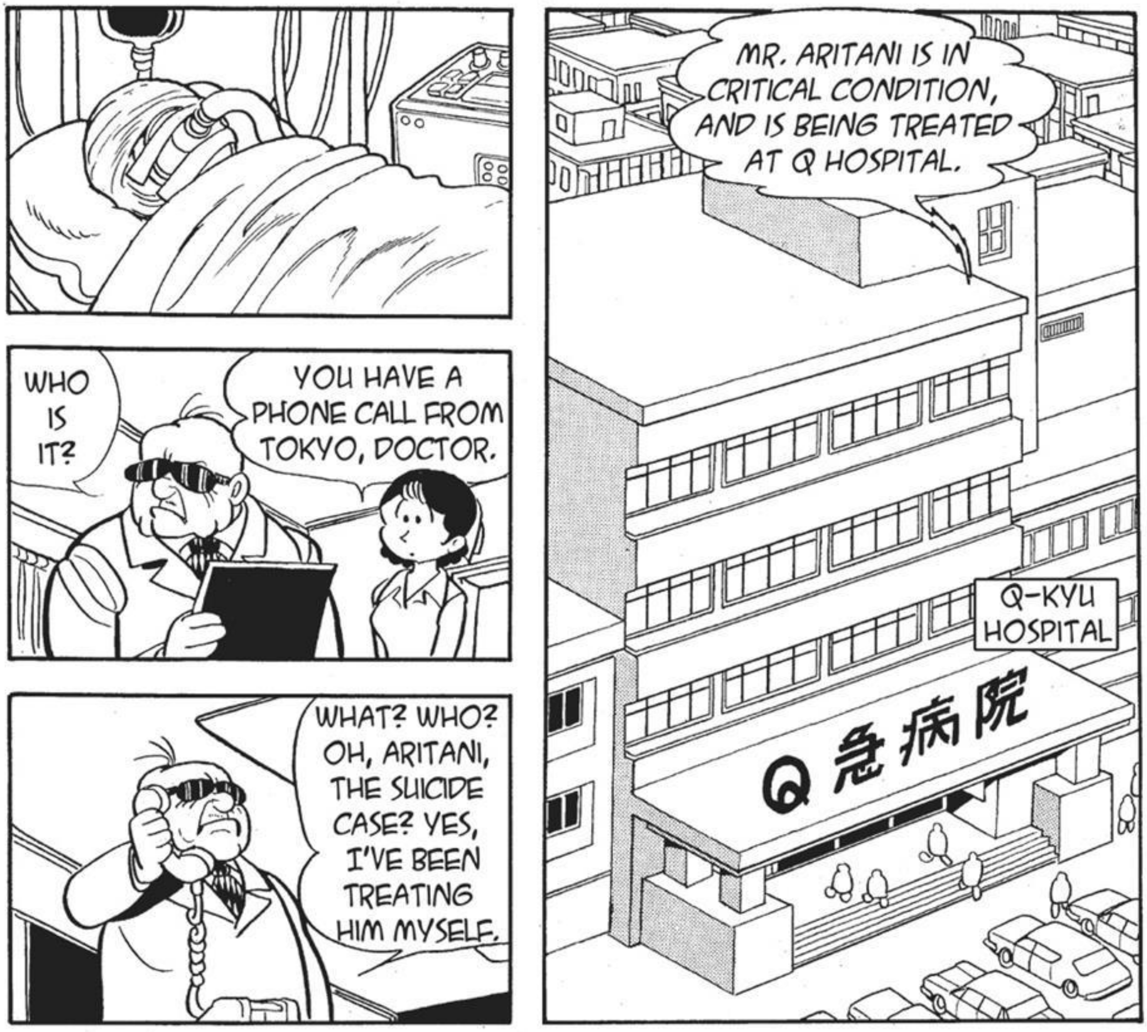

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, SIR?
YES. ARITANI... YOU'VE BEEN A VALUABLE EMPLOYEE.
MAKING BUSINESS TRIPS ABROAD....
OVERSEEING ALL OF OUR ACCOUNTING MATTERS...
TAKING COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM, THAT IS!
ER, WHICH BRINGS ME TO A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER I'D LIKE TO ASK OF YOU...
AT A MORE PRIVATE PLACE.
WHY DON'T YOU COME BY MY PLACE TONIGHT?
YES, SIR ...
MANAGER! ARE YOU BEING PROMOTED?
I REALLY DON'T KNOW.
PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT!
YES, SIR.
ARITANI... WOULD YOU SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR OUR COMPANY?
I MEAN... ARE YOU LOYAL TO US?
WELL, OF COURSE.
I'LL DO ANYTHING I'M ASKED.
I WONDER IF YOU REMEMBER, WHEN WE MADE A TRANSACTION A WHILE BACK...
I ASKED YOU TO DISCREETLY DISPATCH SOME FUNDS TO MR. SHIKOTAMA, THE MINISTER?


IF THIS BLOWS OVER, BOTH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND I WILL BE ARRESTED...
NOT TO SPEAK OF MR. SHIKOTAMA ...
WHAT?
THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR IS ON TO IT.
IT'S FOR THE COMPANY! DIE FOR US.
I'M SORRY. YOU HAVE TO GO!
IF YOU DIE, WE'LL ALL BE SAVED.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ACTUALLY SHIFTED THE SUM AND COOKED THE BOOKS.
ON YOUR ORDERS, SIR!
I DON'T THINK SO.
YOU SAID YOU'D SACRIFICE YOURSELF FOR US...
WHY DO I HAVE TO DIE?!
WHY IS IT MY RESPONSIBILITY?
DIE?! THAT'S TOO MUCH!!

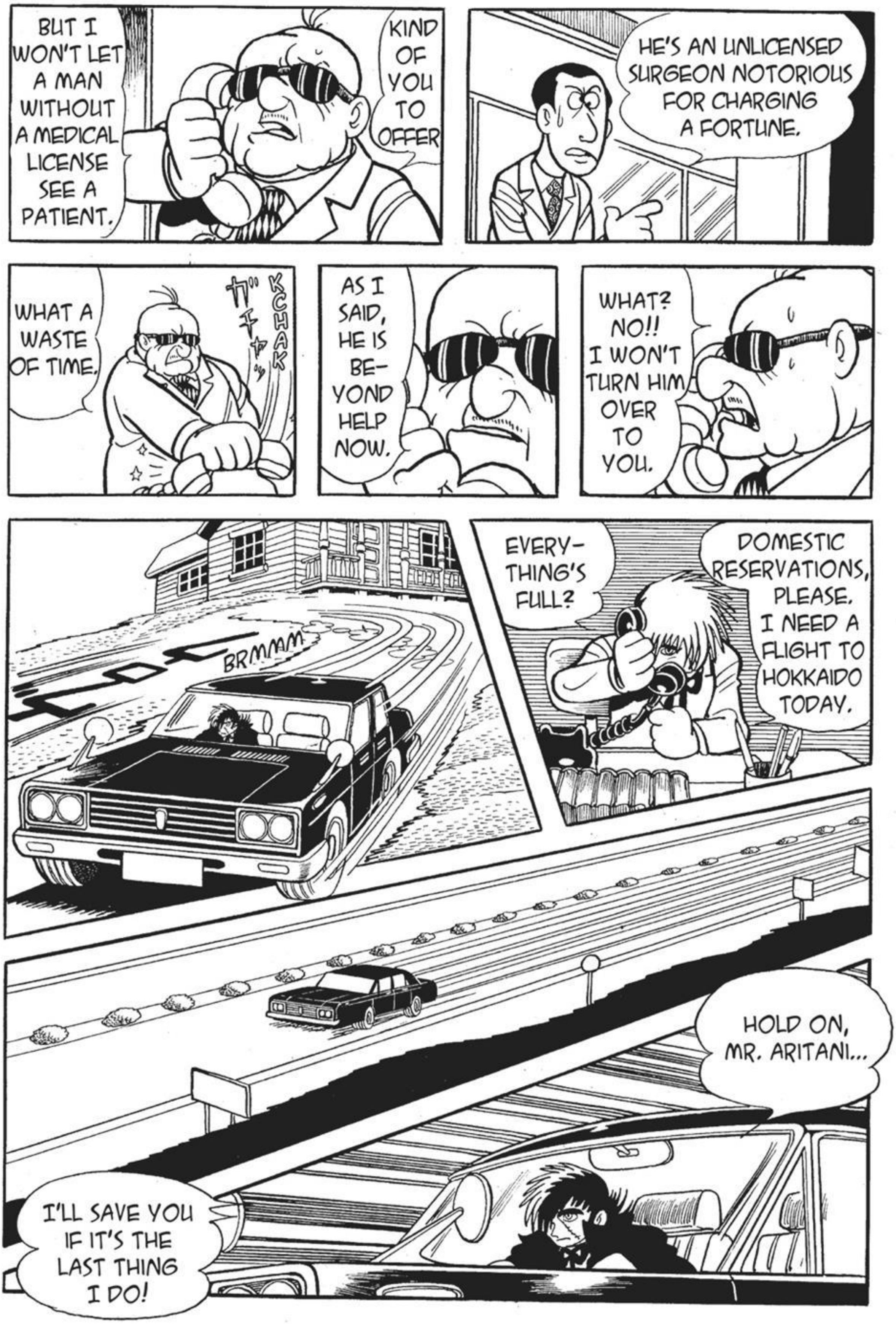

KILL YOURSELF ...
Y-YOU REALLY WANT ME TO DIE?
IF YOU DO THIS, WE'LL PUT A STATUE OF YOU ON THE ROOF AND SALUTE IT EVERY DAY AS OUR GUARDIAN DEITY.
KILL MYSELF?! I WON'T DO IT!
OH, COME ON! EVERY COMPANY DOES THIS.
I WROTE UP A SUICIDE NOTE FOR YOU.
WILL
BE BRAVE! AND MY SYMPATHIES.
"I SPENT ALL 400 MILLION YEN ON PACHINKO GAMBLING.
NOBODY ELSE WAS INVOLVED. I AM SOLELY TO BLAME."
WHAT BALONEY!
THROW MYSELF OFF SOME ROOF?
SLEEPING PILLS, MAYBE?
HANGING IS SO UNCOOL...
HOW SHOULD I DO IT?

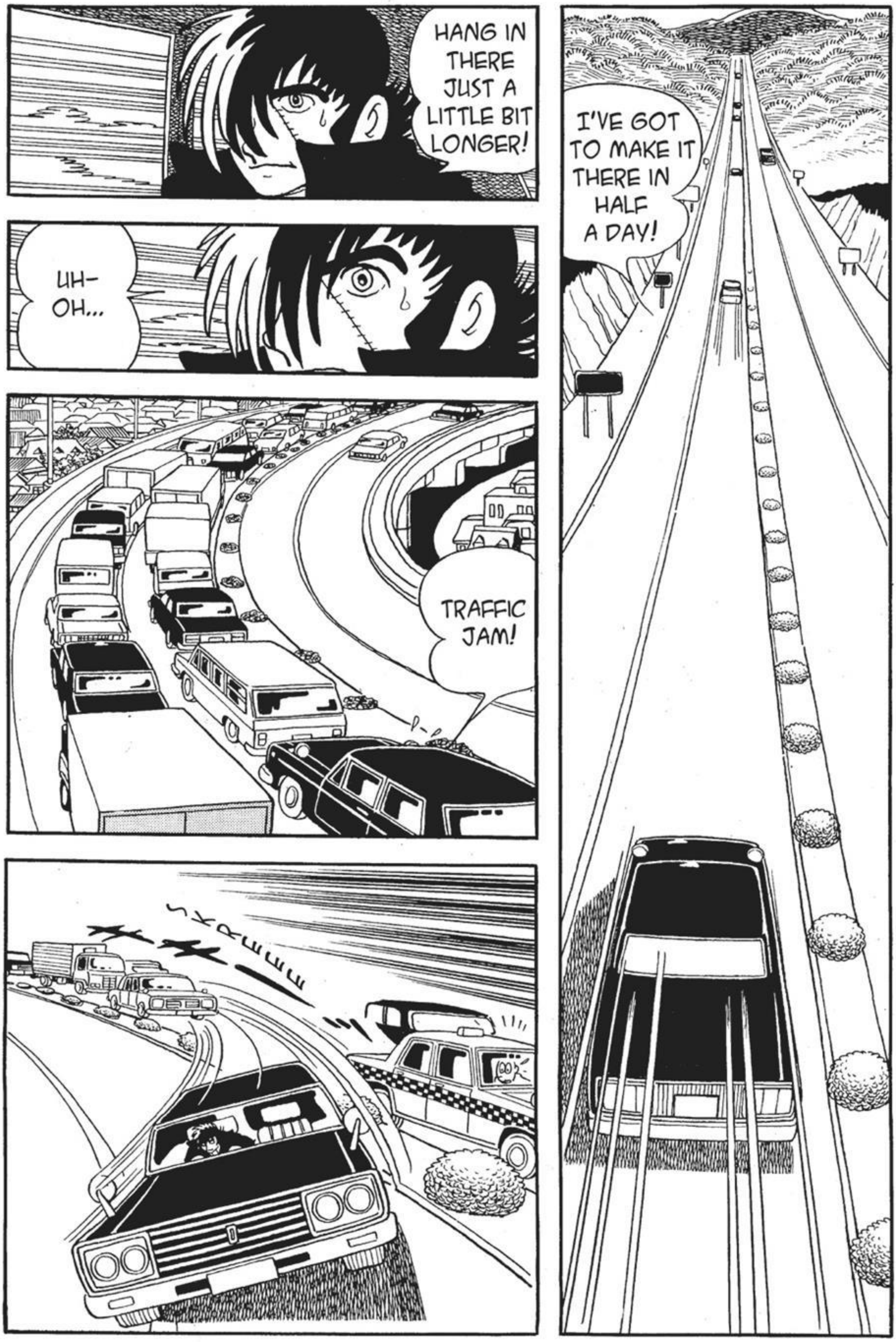

I SHOULD JUST LEAP IN FRONT OF THIS TRAIN...
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
BUT COME TO THINK OF IT, WHY JUST ME?
WHY NOT THE DIRECTOR TOO?
I'M NOT GONNA DIE, DAMMIT! WHY SHOULD I TAKE THE FALL?
HEY...!
BOKOM

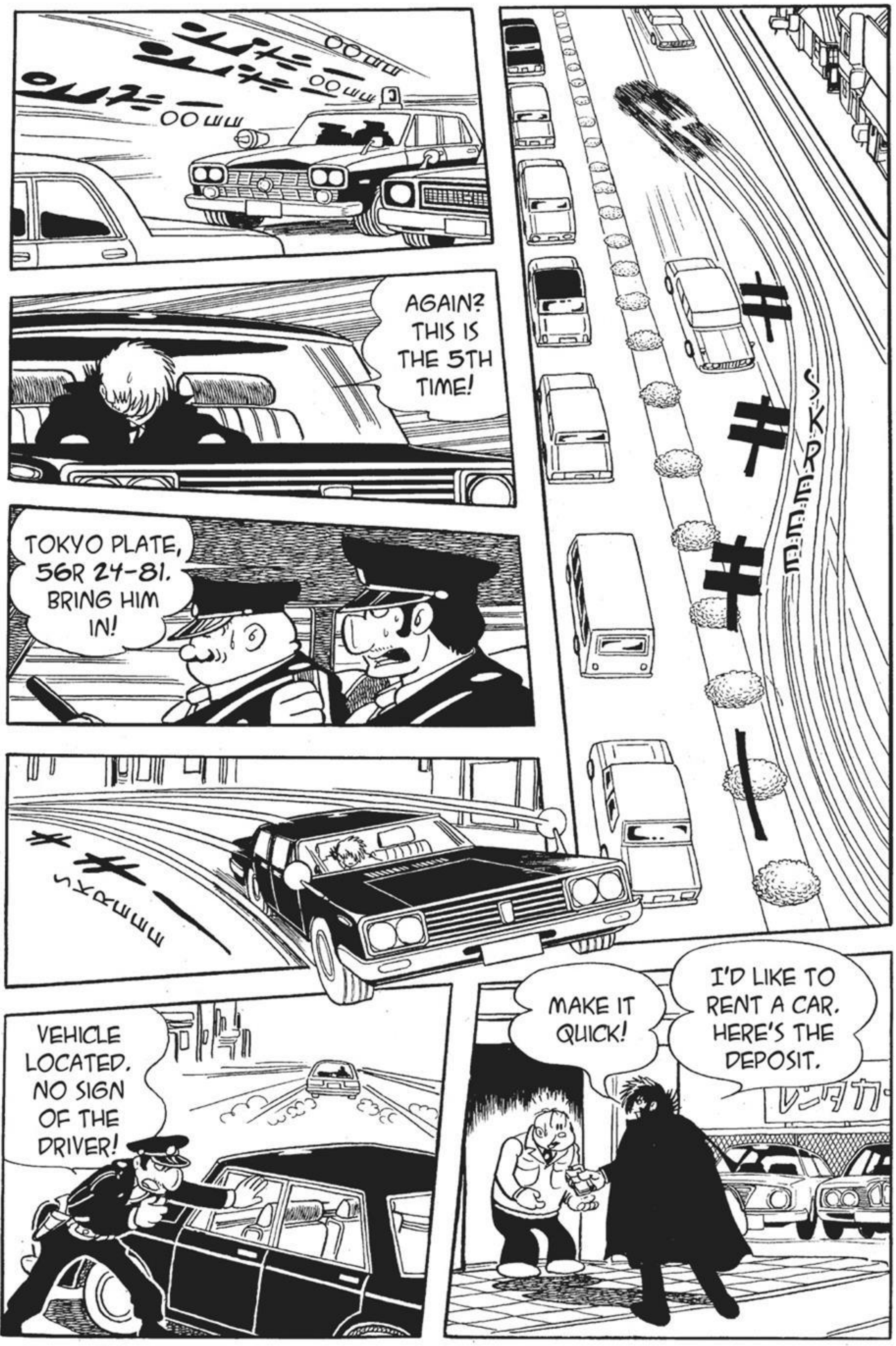

SPLUT
WHOOOOSH
IN SAPPORO TODAY, HOSUKE ARITANI, ACCOUNTING MANAGER OF TAIAN TRADING COMPANY
WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED AFTER THROWING HIMSELF IN FRONT OF A SPEEDING TRAIN.
HEY DOCTOR, A... A... AWITANI'S A FUNNY NAME, ISN'T IT?
ARITANI?
WHAT'S WRONG?
TAIAN IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR THE MINISTRY OF TRADE BRIBERY SCANDAL.
GIVEN MR. ARITANI'S POSITION, HE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN UNINFORMED.

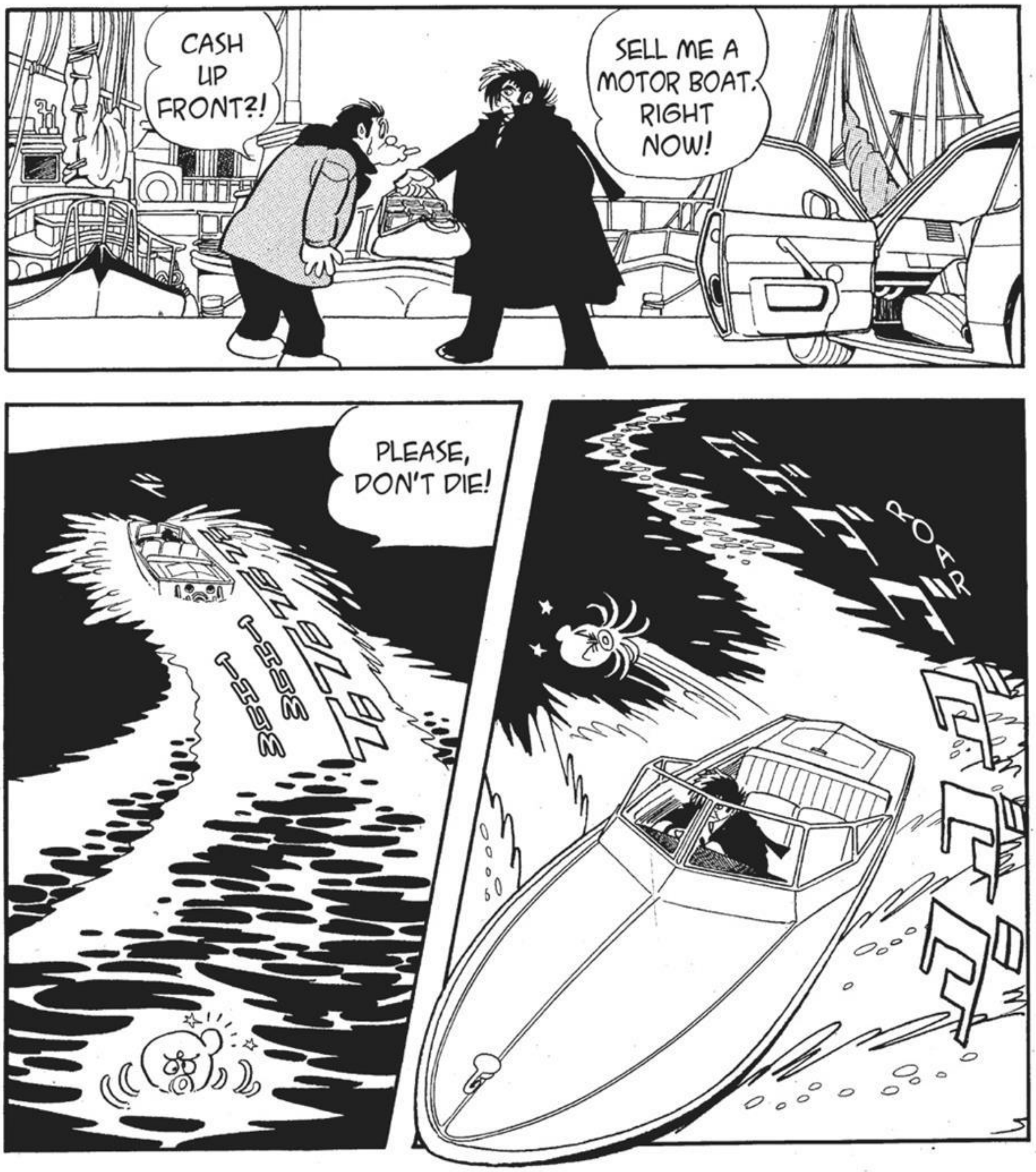

MR. ARITANI IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION, AND IS BEING TREATED AT Q HOSPITAL.
Q-KYU HOSPITAL
Q急病院
YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL FROM TOKYO, DOCTOR.
WHO IS IT?
WHAT? WHO? OH, ARITANI, THE SUICIDE CASE? YES, I'VE BEEN TREATING HIM MYSELF.
BUT THERE'S NO HOPE. HE'LL PROBABLY LIVE JUST A FEW MORE HOURS. YES, I'VE DONE EVERYTHING.
I'VE EXHAUSTED EVERY POSSIBILITY.
WHAT ??
YOU WANT US TO LET YOU OPERATE ON HIM?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
"BLACK JACK"?
DO YOU KNOW OF A DR. BLACK JACK?
OH, YES.

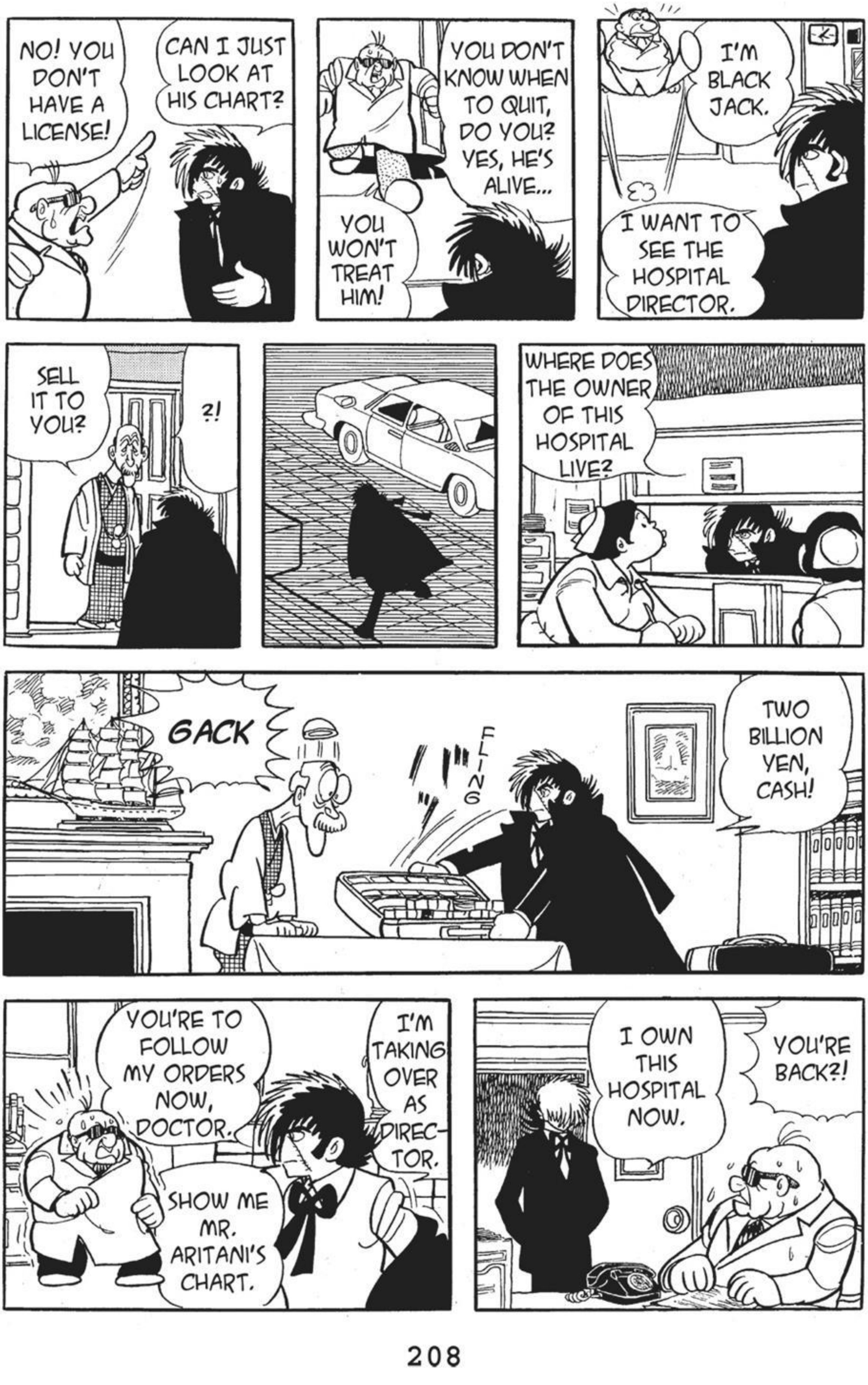
NOTE: "Q HOSPITAL" PLAYS ON THE FACT THAT THE JAPANESE WORD FOR EMERGENCY IS "KYU-KYU."

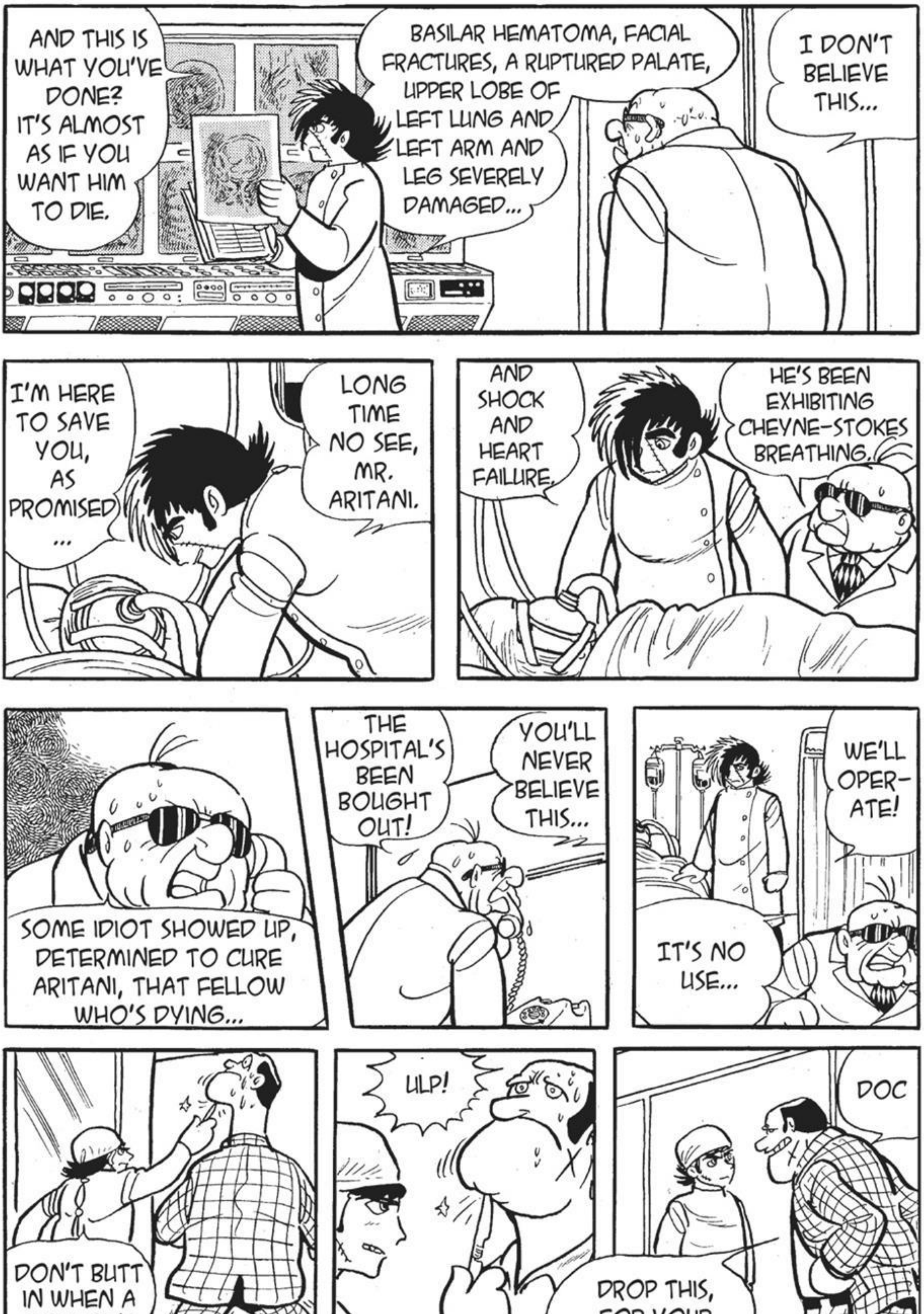

HE'S AN UNLICENSED SURGEON NOTORIOUS FOR CHARGING A FORTUNE.
KIND OF YOU TO OFFER
BUT I WON'T LET A MAN WITHOUT A MEDICAL LICENSE SEE A PATIENT.
WHAT? NO!! I WON'T TURN HIM OVER TO YOU.
AS I SAID, HE IS BEYOND HELP NOW.
ガチャ KCHAK
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.
DOMESTIC RESERVATIONS, PLEASE. I NEED A FLIGHT TO HOKKAIDO TODAY.
EVERYTHING'S FULL?
BRMMM
HOLD ON, MR. ARITANI...
I'LL SAVE YOU IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!

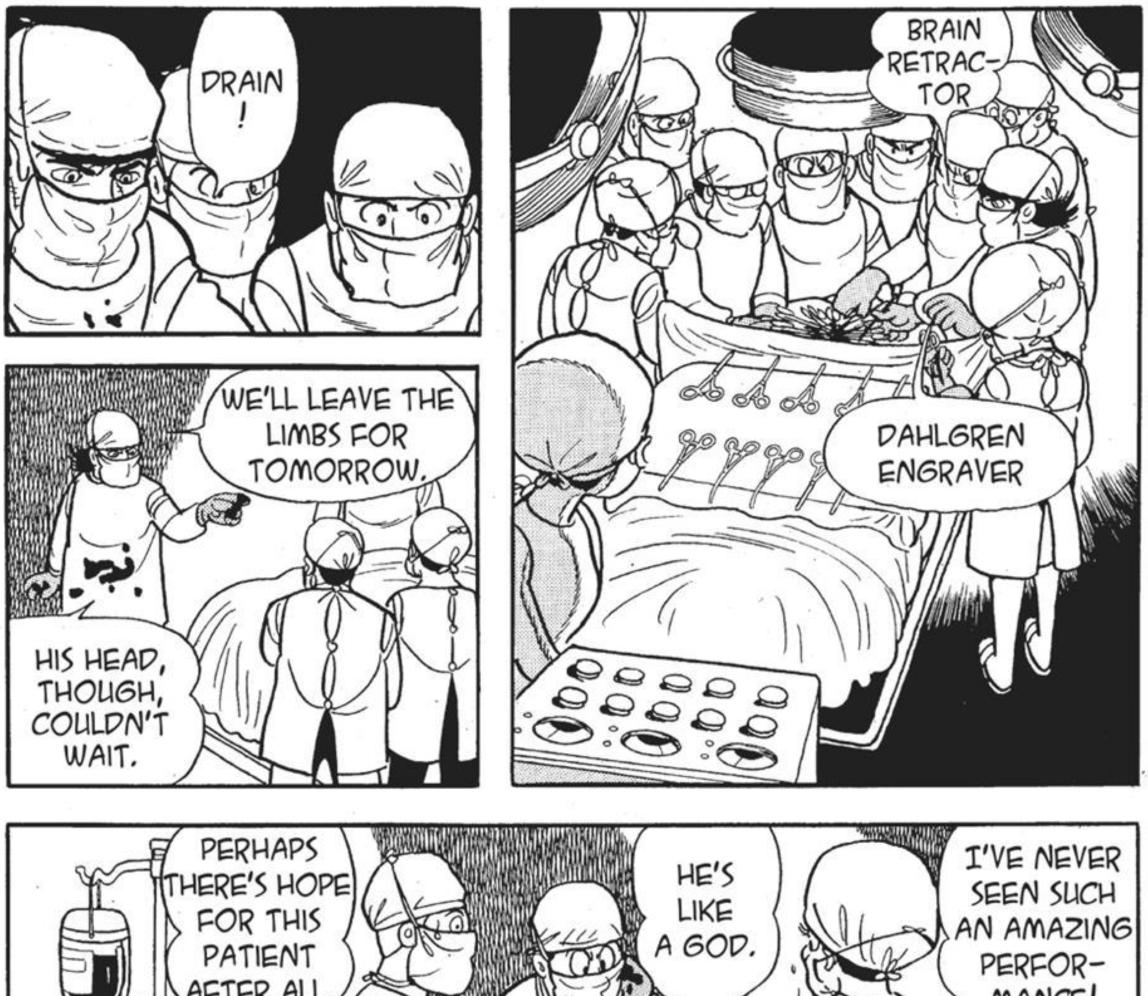

HANG IN THERE JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER!
UH-OH...
TRAFFIC JAM!
SKREEEE
I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT THERE IN HALF A DAY!

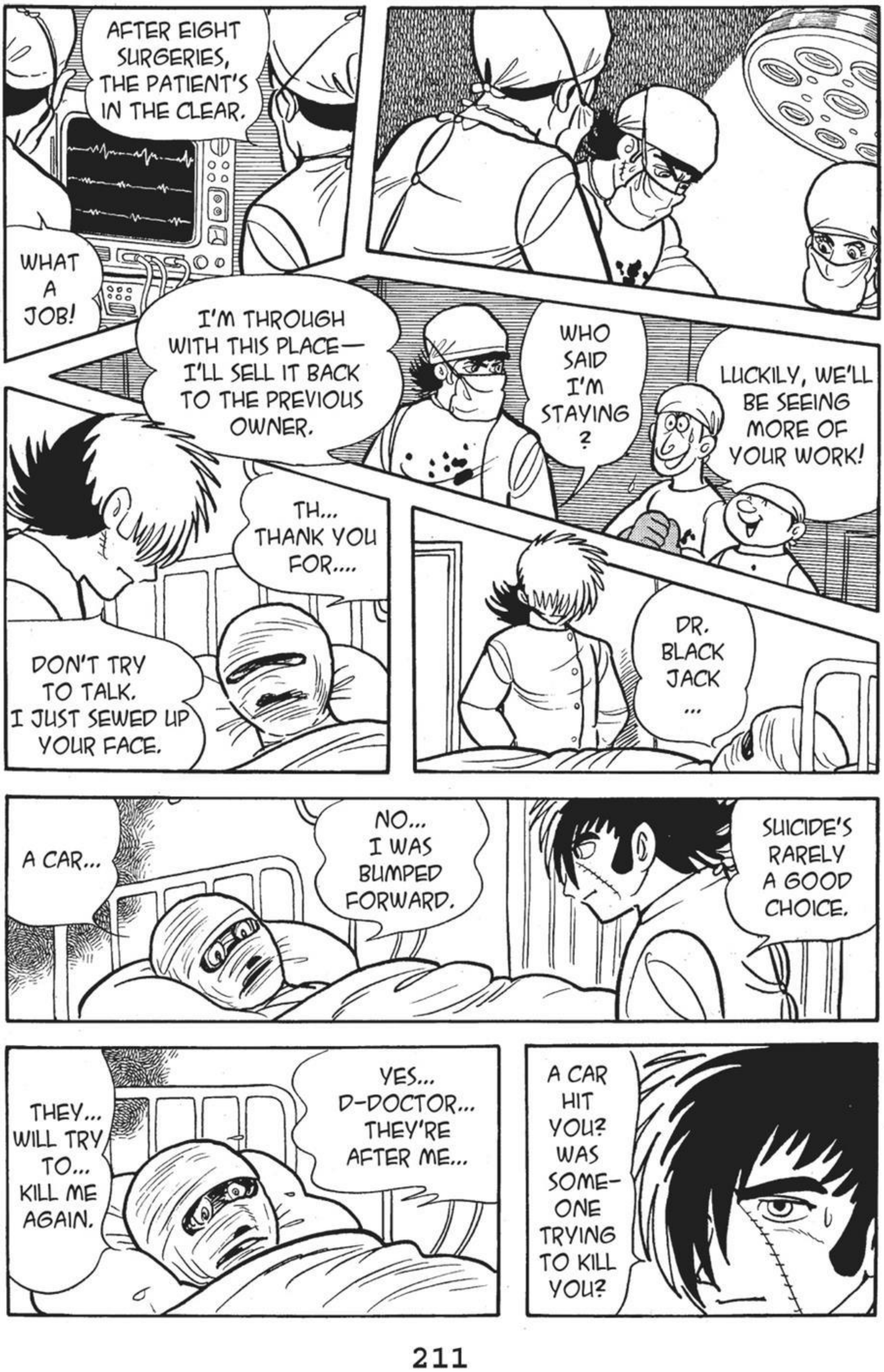

OOWW
OOWW
OOWW
AGAIN? THIS IS THE 5TH TIME!
TOKYO PLATE, 56R 24-81. BRING HIM IN!
SKREEEE
SKREEEE
VEHICLE LOCATED. NO SIGN OF THE DRIVER!
I'D LIKE TO RENT A CAR. HERE'S THE DEPOSIT.
MAKE IT QUICK!
レンタカ

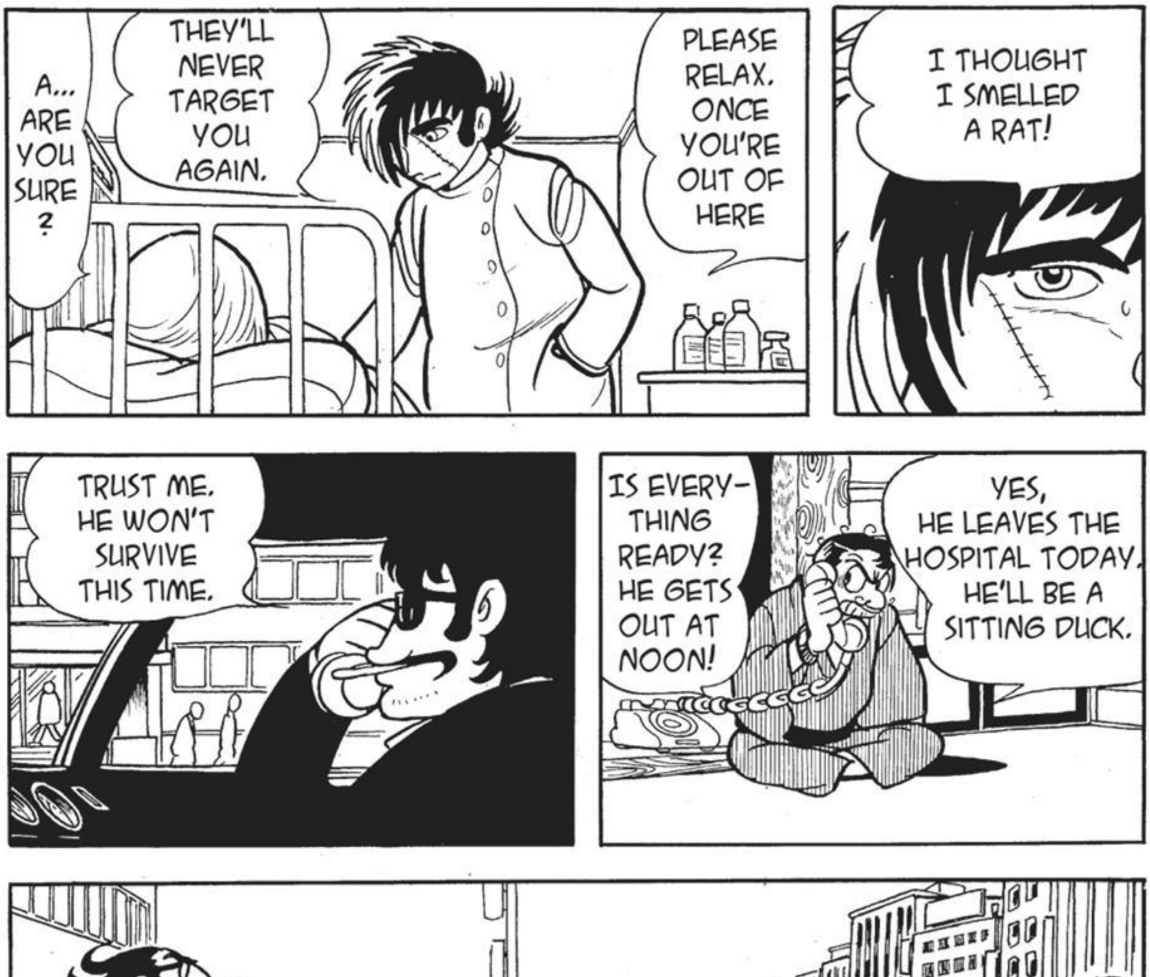

SELL ME A MOTOR BOAT. RIGHT NOW!
CASH UP FRONT?!
ROAR
PLEASE, DON'T DIE!
SKREE
IS HE ALIVE?
MR. ARITANI?
WHO ARE YOU?

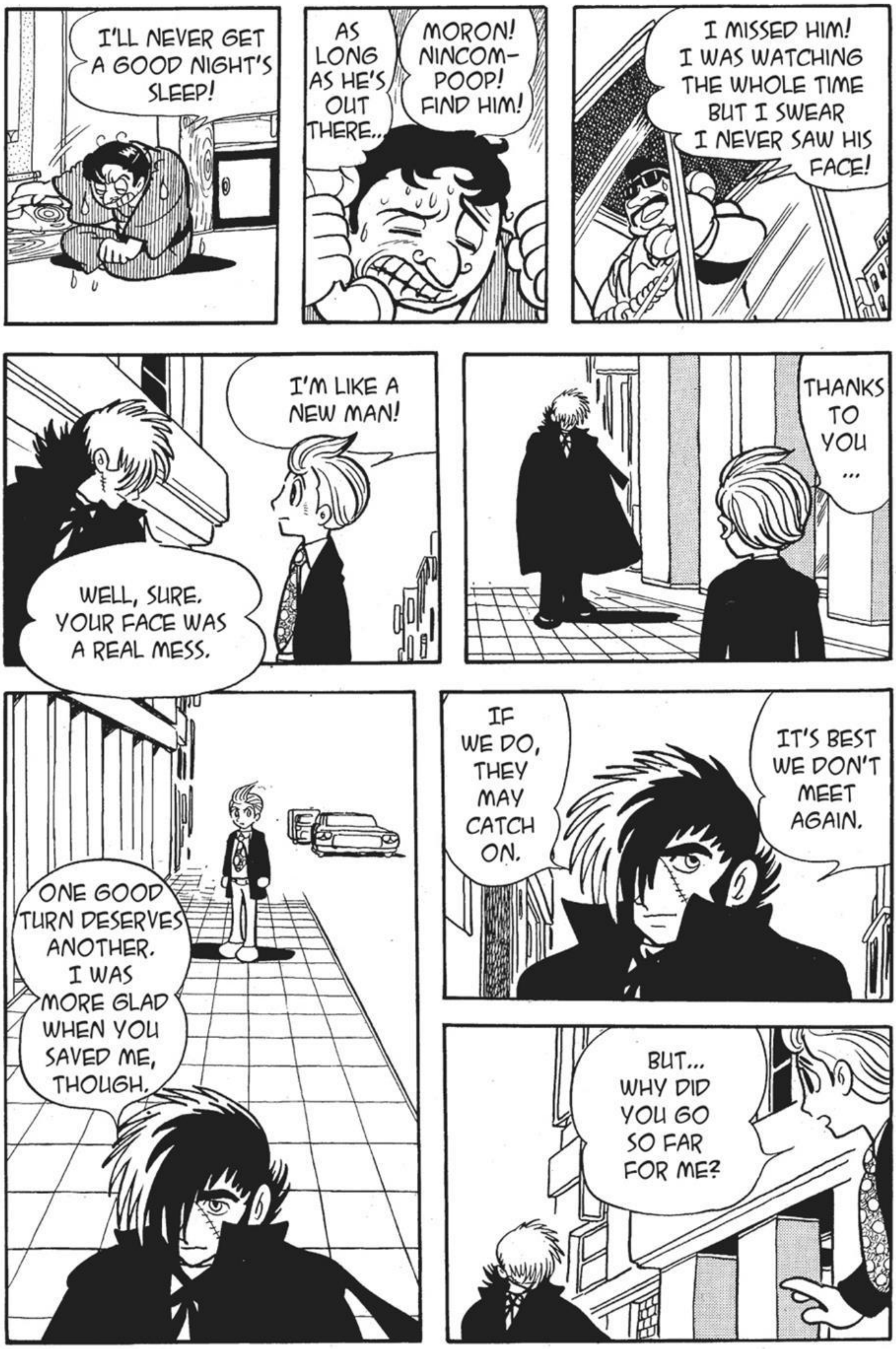

I'M BLACK JACK.
I WANT TO SEE THE HOSPITAL DIRECTOR.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT, DO YOU? YES, HE'S ALIVE...
YOU WON'T TREAT HIM!
CAN I JUST LOOK AT HIS CHART?
NO! YOU DON'T HAVE A LICENSE!
WHERE DOES THE OWNER OF THIS HOSPITAL LIVE?
?!
SELL IT TO YOU?
TWO BILLION YEN, CASH!
FLING
GACK
YOU'RE BACK?!
I OWN THIS HOSPITAL NOW.
I'M TAKING OVER AS DIRECTOR.
YOU'RE TO FOLLOW MY ORDERS NOW, DOCTOR.
SHOW ME MR. ARITANI'S CHART.


I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...
BASILAR HEMATOMA, FACIAL FRACTURES, A RUPTURED PALATE, UPPER LOBE OF LEFT LUNG AND LEFT ARM AND LEG SEVERELY DAMAGED...
AND THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE DONE? IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU WANT HIM TO DIE.
HE'S BEEN EXHIBITING CHEYNE-STOKES BREATHING.
AND SHOCK AND HEART FAILURE.
LONG TIME NO SEE, MR. ARITANI.
I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU, AS PROMISED...
WE'LL OPERATE!
IT'S NO USE...
YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE THIS...
THE HOSPITAL'S BEEN BOUGHT OUT!
SOME IDIOT SHOWED UP, DETERMINED TO CURE ARITANI, THAT FELLOW WHO'S DYING...
DOC
DROP THIS, FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.
ULP!
DON'T BUTT IN WHEN A DOCTOR'S WORKING.

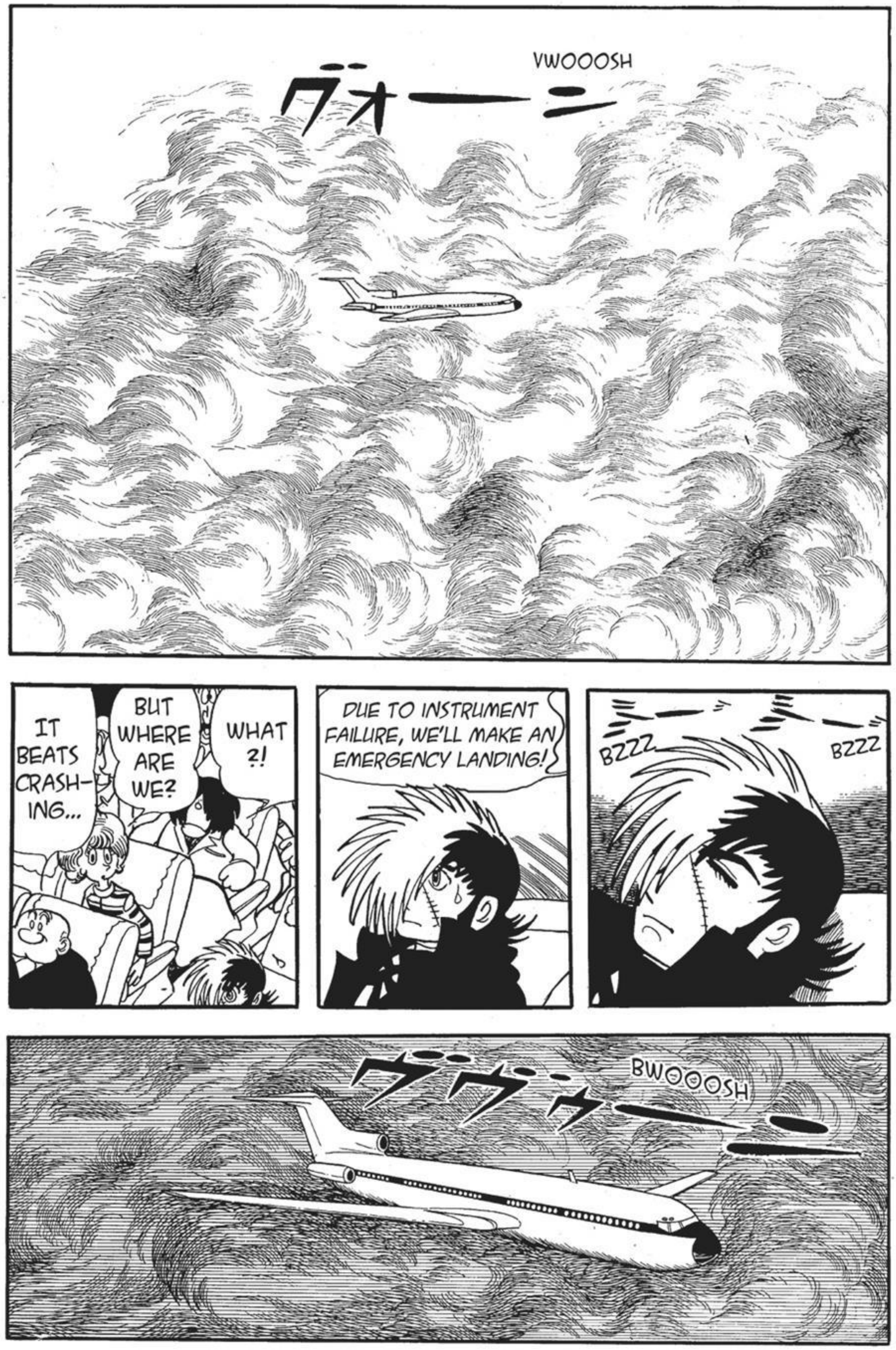

DRAIN!
BRAIN RETRACTOR
DAHLGREN ENGRAVER
WE'LL LEAVE THE LIMBS FOR TOMORROW.
HIS HEAD, THOUGH, COULDN'T WAIT.
PERHAPS THERE'S HOPE FOR THIS PATIENT AFTER ALL.
HE'S LIKE A GOD.
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH AN AMAZING PERFORMANCE!
I SUPPOSE HE'LL JUST HAVE TO DIE AGAIN...
THIS TIME, IN AN ACCIDENT!
WHAT? HE MIGHT MAKE IT? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WHY, THE MEDDLING ASS...
IF YOU CURE THIS PATIENT, IT'LL BE A MIRACLE, DOCTOR.
"IF"? I'LL CURE HIM, ALL RIGHT.

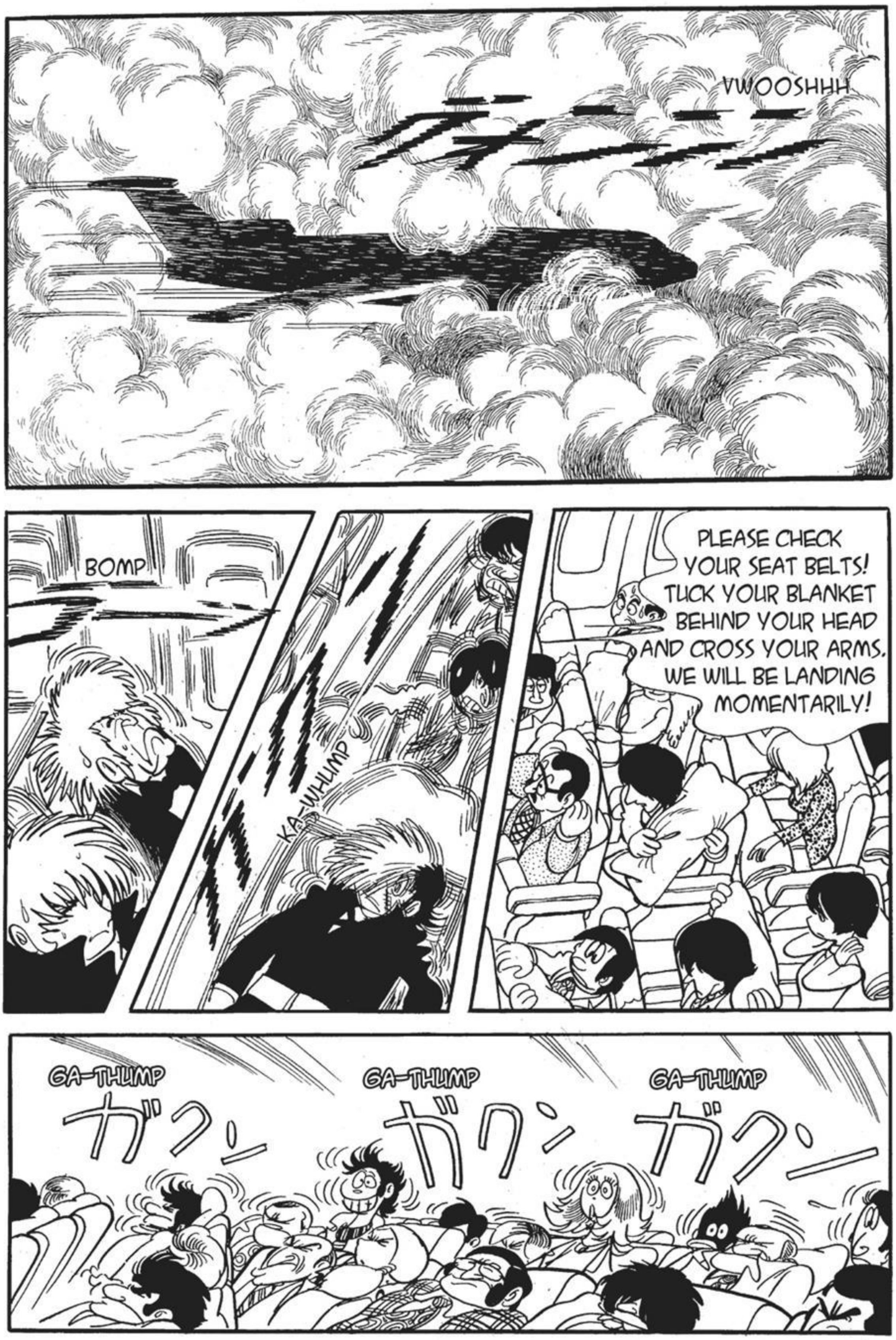

AFTER EIGHT SURGERIES, THE PATIENT'S IN THE CLEAR.
WHAT A JOB!
LUCKILY, WE'LL BE SEEING MORE OF YOUR WORK!
WHO SAID I'M STAYING?
I'M THROUGH WITH THIS PLACE— I'LL SELL IT BACK TO THE PREVIOUS OWNER.
DR. BLACK JACK...
TH... THANK YOU FOR....
DON'T TRY TO TALK. I JUST SEWED UP YOUR FACE.
SUICIDE'S RARELY A GOOD CHOICE.
NO... I WAS BUMPED FORWARD.
A CAR...
A CAR HIT YOU? WAS SOMEONE TRYING TO KILL YOU?
YES... D-DOCTOR... THEY'RE AFTER ME...
THEY... WILL TRY TO... KILL ME AGAIN.

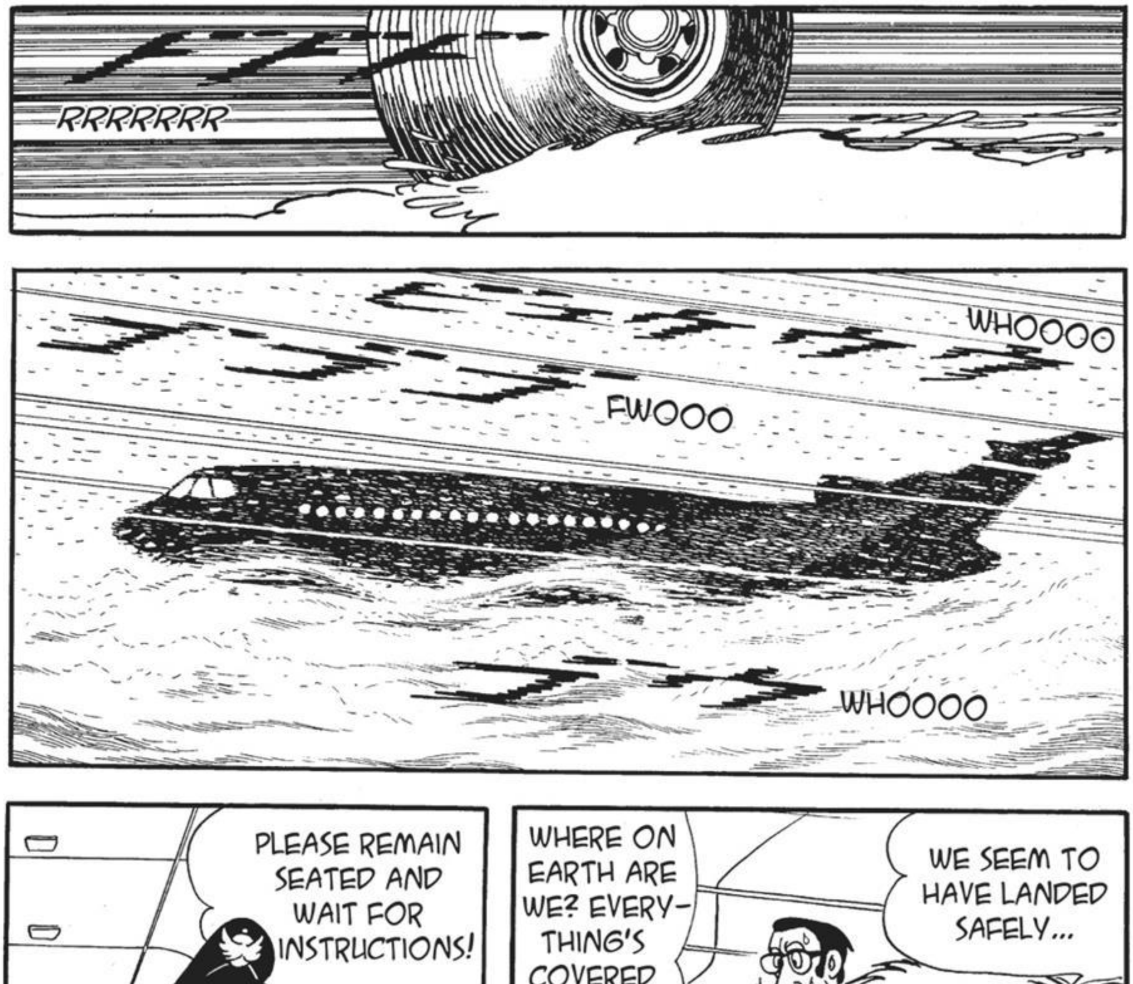

I THOUGHT I SMELLED A RAT!
PLEASE RELAX. ONCE YOU'RE OUT OF HERE
THEY'LL NEVER TARGET YOU AGAIN.
A... ARE YOU SURE?
YES, HE LEAVES THE HOSPITAL TODAY. HE'LL BE A SITTING DUCK.
IS EVERYTHING READY? HE GETS OUT AT NOON!
TRUST ME. HE WON'T SURVIVE THIS TIME.
IT'S ALREADY 1:30. WHAT THE HELL'S KEEPING HIM?
HE HASN'T COME OUT? ODD. YOU KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE, RIGHT?
YES, HE WAS DISCHARGED EARLIER.
EARLIER?

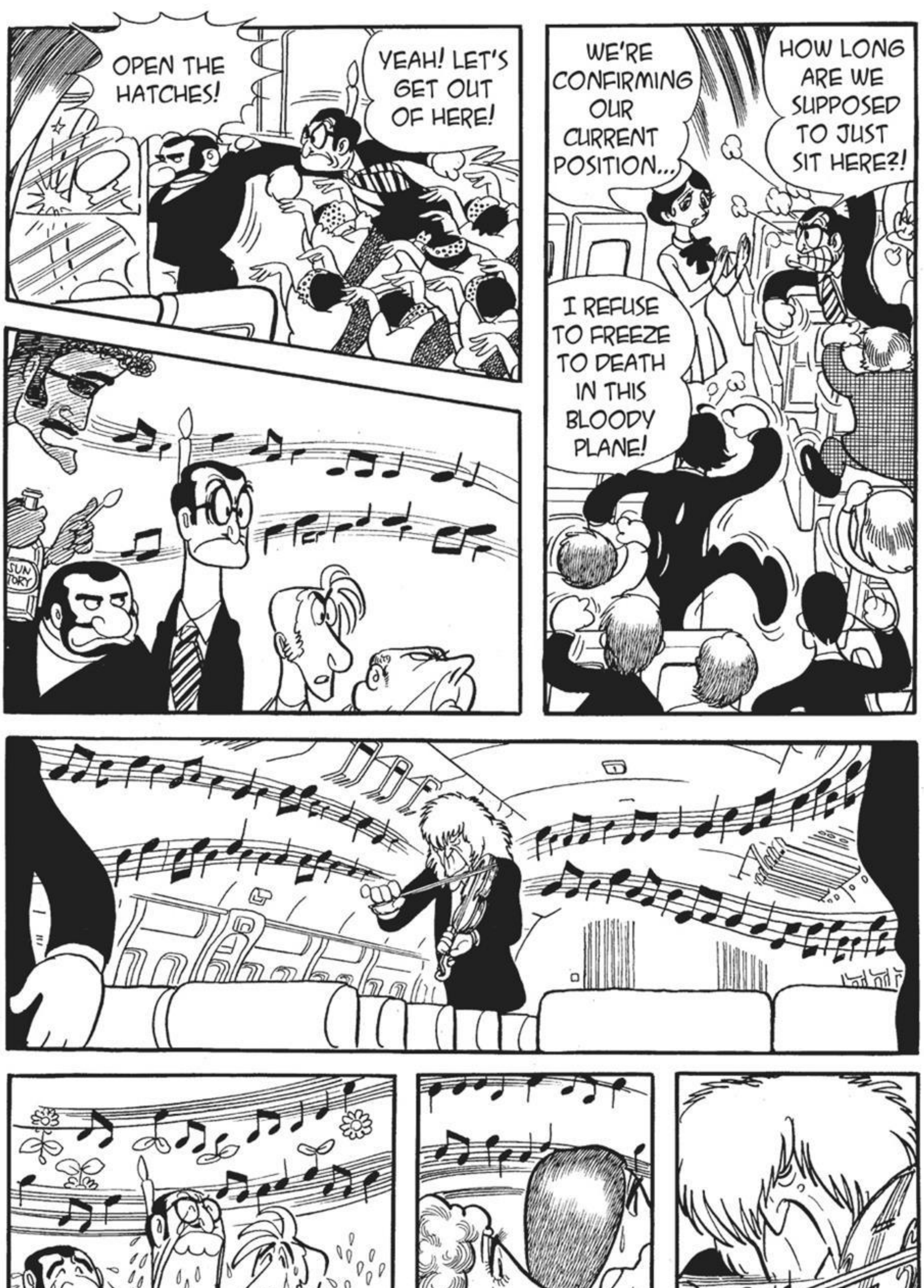

I'LL NEVER GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!
AS LONG AS HE'S OUT THERE...
MORON! NINCOMPOOP! FIND HIM!
I MISSED HIM! I WAS WATCHING THE WHOLE TIME BUT I SWEAR I NEVER SAW HIS FACE!
I'M LIKE A NEW MAN!
WELL, SURE. YOUR FACE WAS A REAL MESS.
THANKS TO YOU ...
ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER. I WAS MORE GLAD WHEN YOU SAVED ME, THOUGH.
IT'S BEST WE DON'T MEET AGAIN.
IF WE DO, THEY MAY CATCH ON.
BUT... WHY DID YOU GO SO FAR FOR ME?

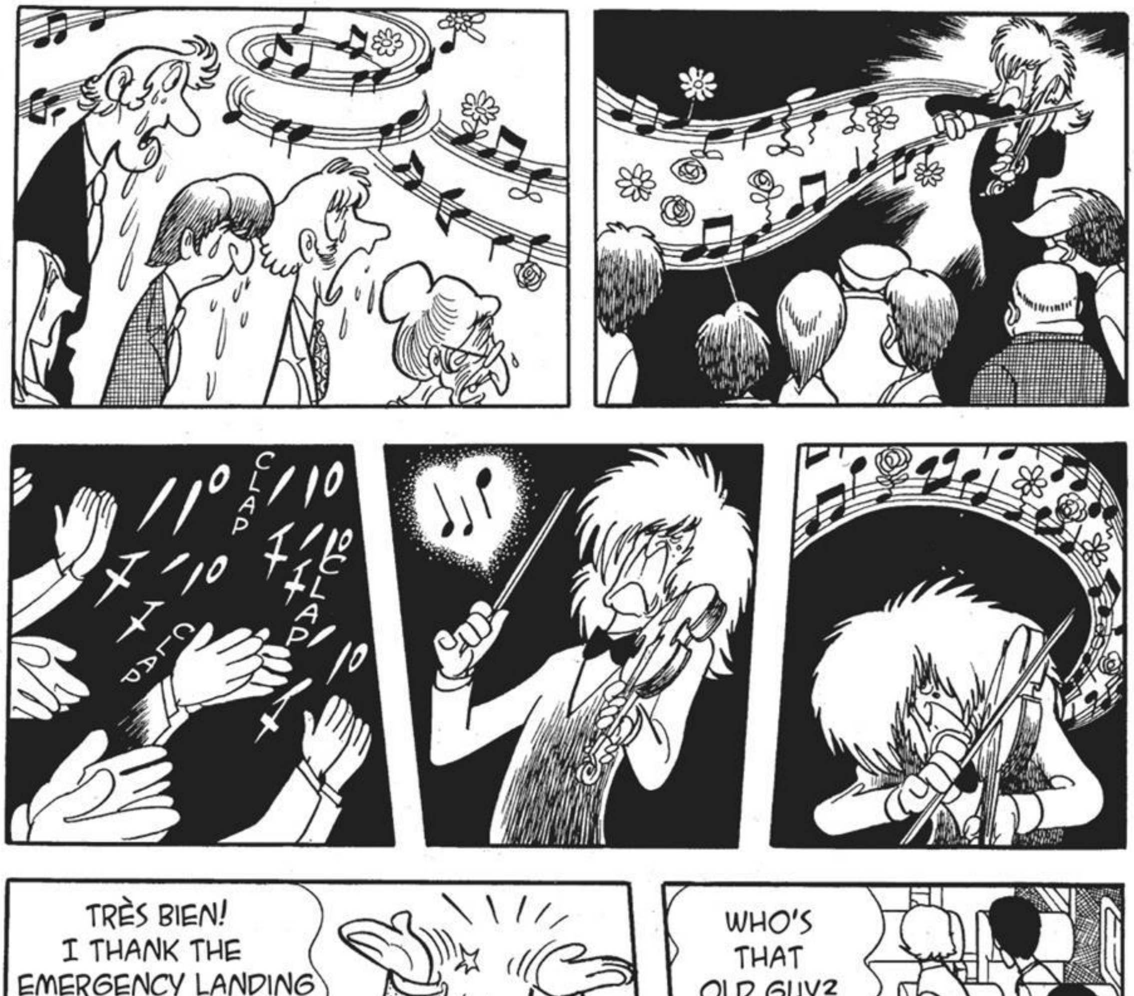
STRADIVARIUS

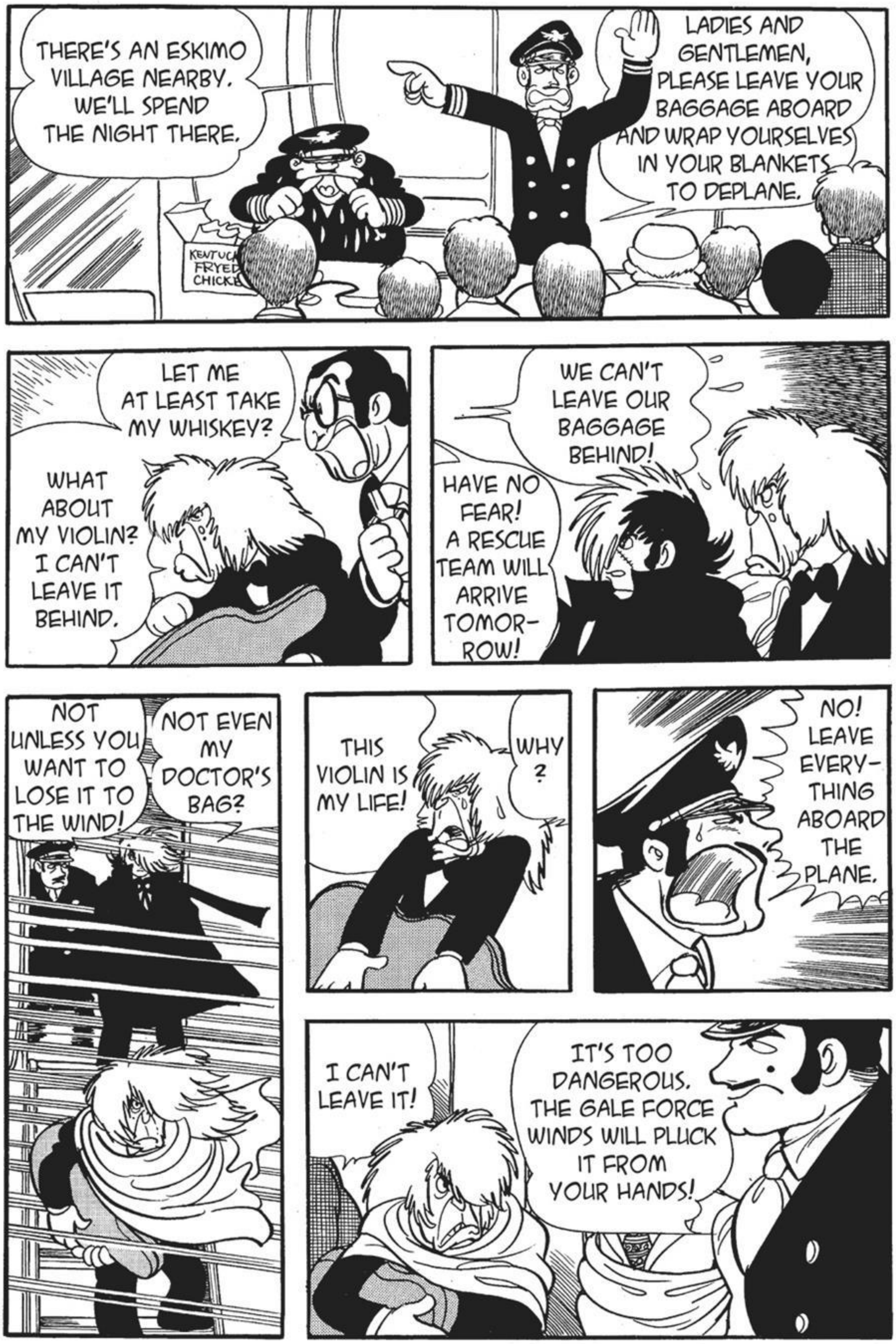

グォーン
VWOOOSH
ジー
BZZZ
BZZZ
DUE TO INSTRUMENT FAILURE, WE'LL MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING!
WHAT ?!
BUT WHERE ARE WE?
IT BEATS CRASHING...
ヴヴヴーン
BWOOOSH

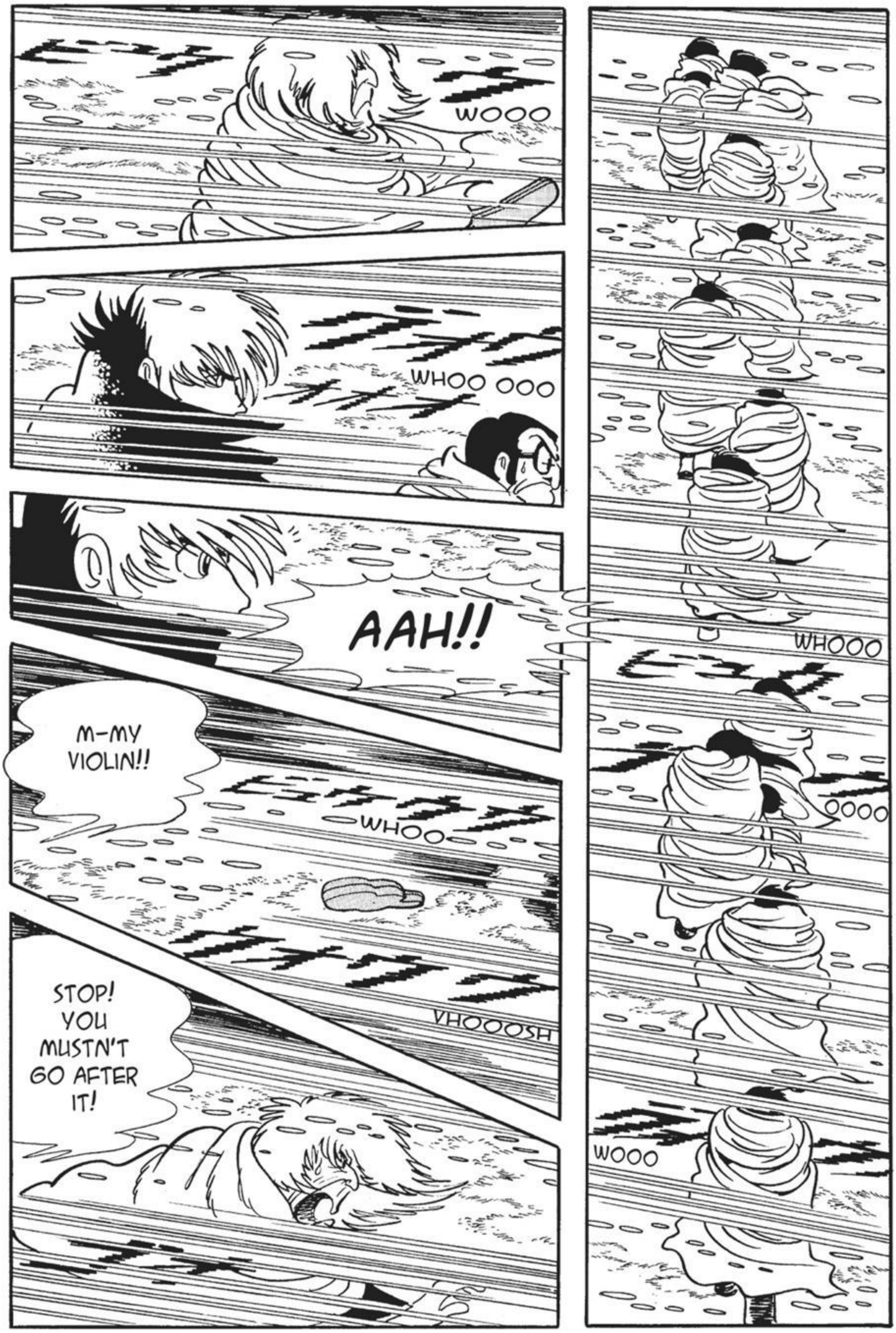

VWOOSHHH
BOMP
KA-WHUMP
PLEASE CHECK YOUR SEAT BELTS! TUCK YOUR BLANKET BEHIND YOUR HEAD AND CROSS YOUR ARMS. WE WILL BE LANDING MOMENTARILY!
GA-THUMP
ガクン
GA-THUMP
ガクン
GA-THUMP
ガクン

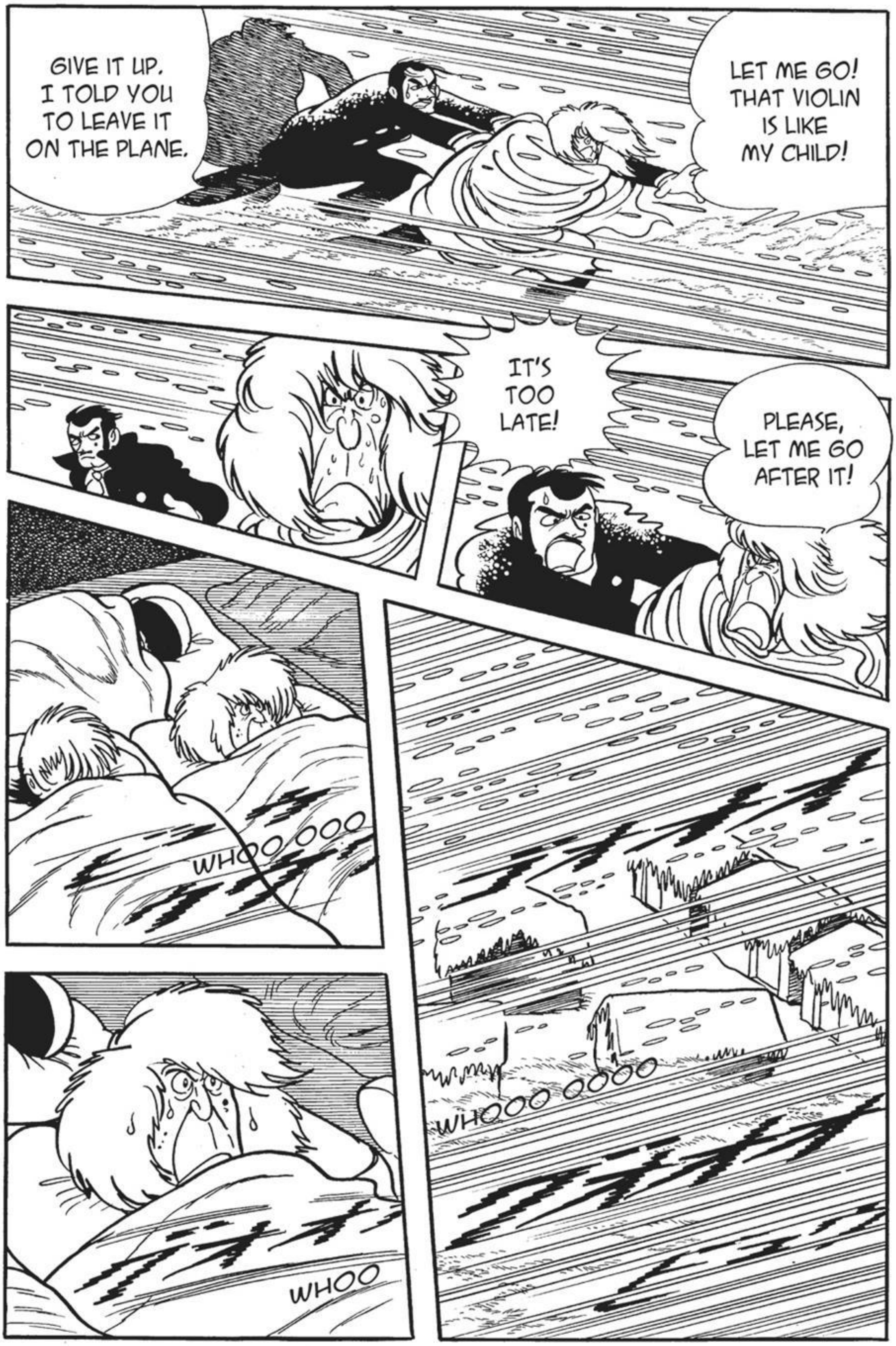

RRRRRRR
WHOOOO
FWOOO
WHOOOO
WE SEEM TO HAVE LANDED SAFELY...
WHERE ON EARTH ARE WE? EVERYTHING'S COVERED IN SNOW!
PLEASE REMAIN SEATED AND WAIT FOR INSTRUCTIONS!
THIS FLIGHT'S FOR TOKYO VIA THE NORTH POLE. MAYBE THAT'S WHERE WE ARE!
GOOD GRIEF... DON'T EVEN SAY THAT.
MAMA, I'M SCARED!
IT SURE IS COLD. HAS THE HEATING STOPPED?

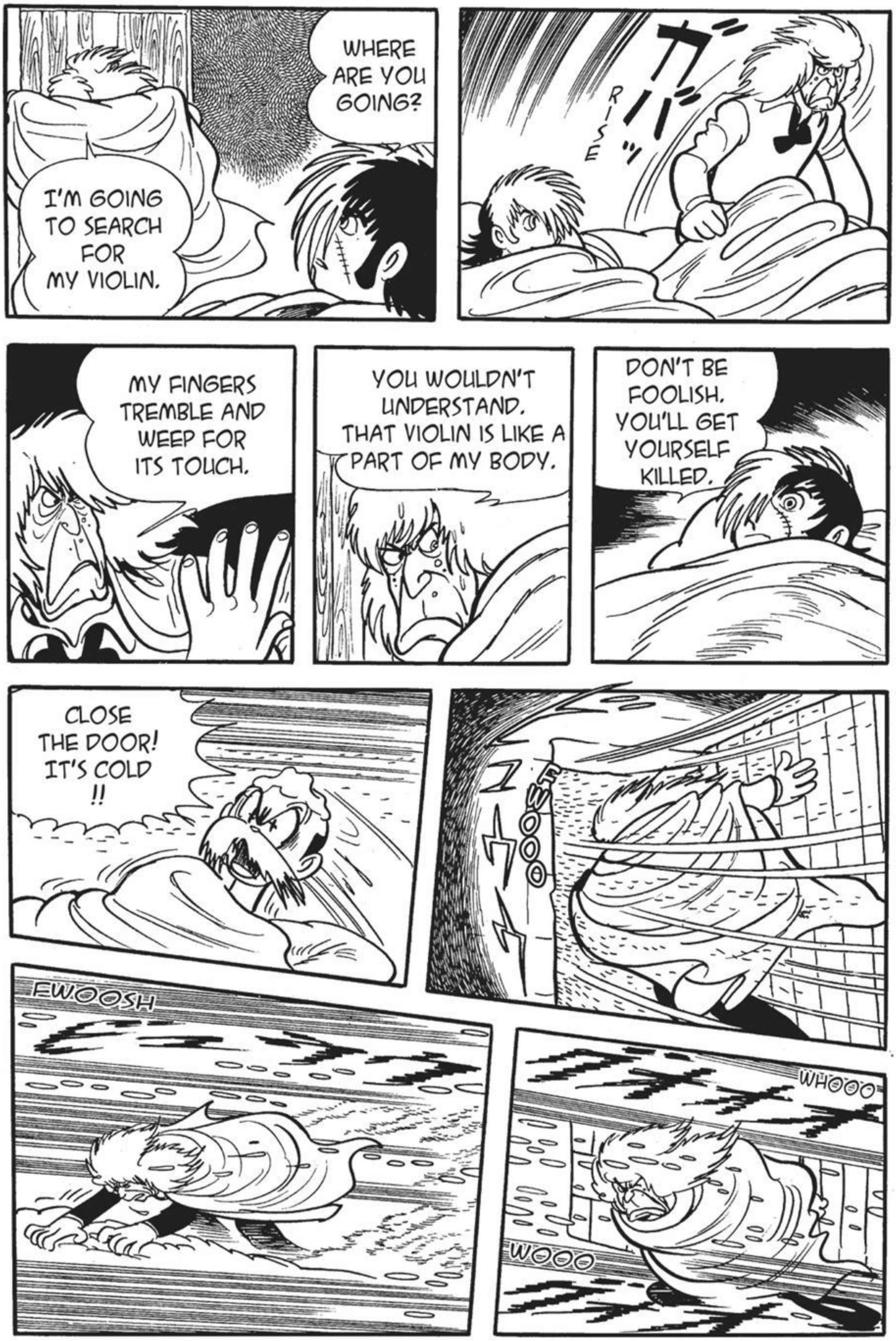

OPEN THE HATCHES!
YEAH! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
WE'RE CONFIRMING OUR CURRENT POSITION...
HOW LONG ARE WE SUPPOSED TO JUST SIT HERE?!
I REFUSE TO FREEZE TO DEATH IN THIS BLOODY PLANE!
SUNTORY

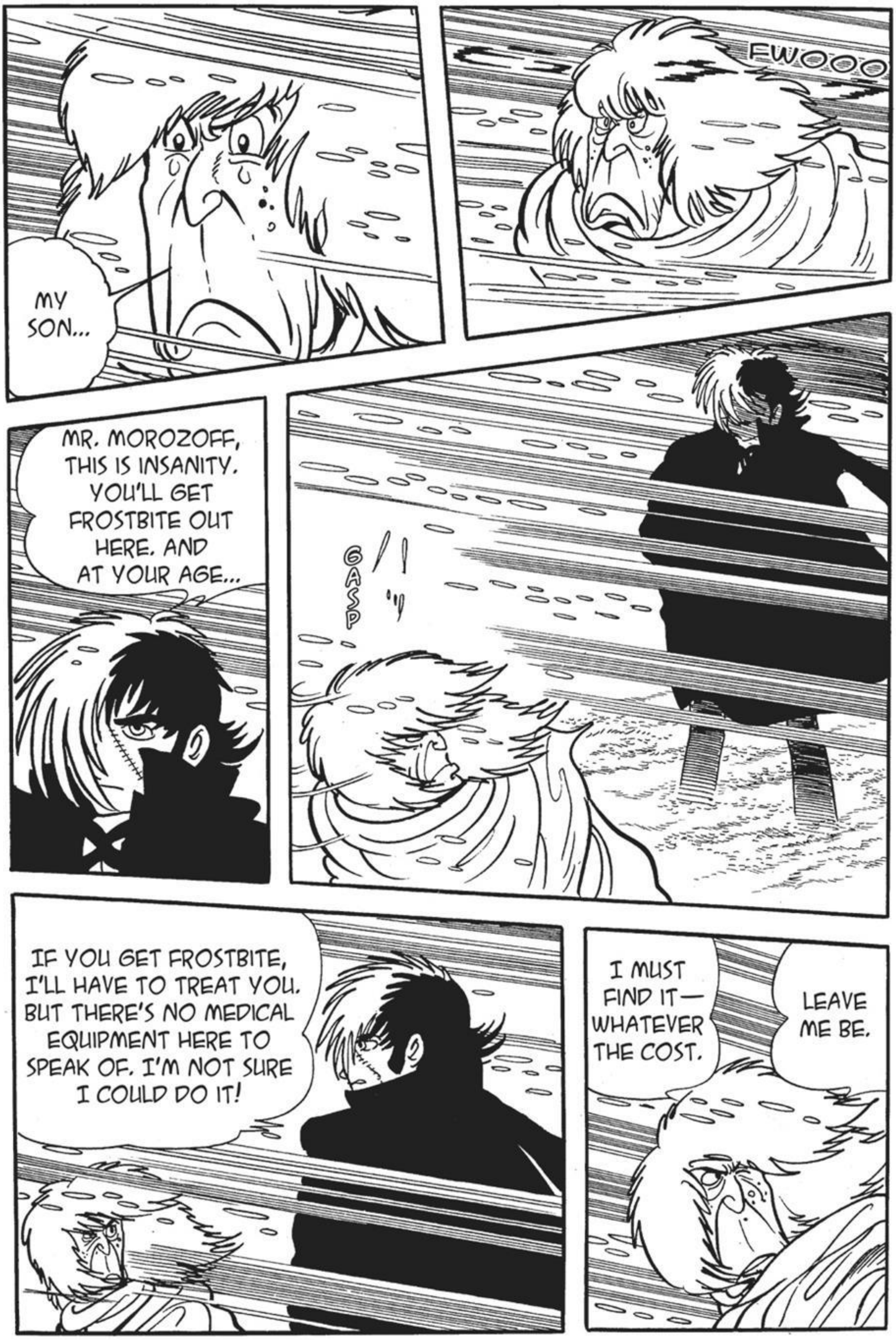

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
TRÈS BIEN! I THANK THE EMERGENCY LANDING FOR THIS RARE OPPORTUNITY!
I'M TERRIBLY GRATEFUL!
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A BIT OF MUSIC IN TIMES OF DISTRESS...
WHO'S THAT OLD GUY?
IT'S MAESTRO MOROZOFF, THE WORLD FAMOUS VIOLINIST!
YOU'RE RIGHT! THAT'S HIM!
I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS ON THIS PLANE.

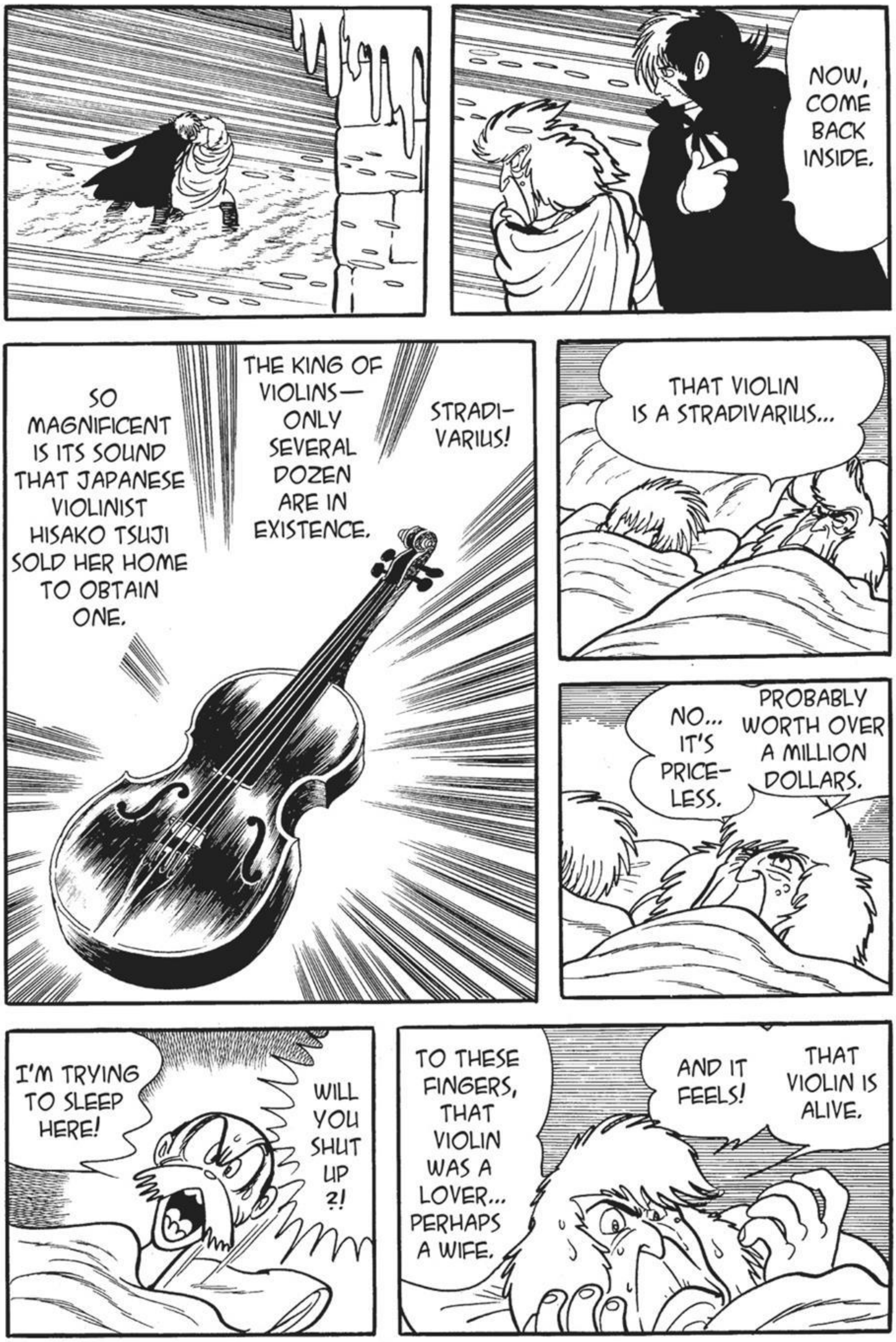

THERE'S AN ESKIMO VILLAGE NEARBY. WE'LL SPEND THE NIGHT THERE.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, PLEASE LEAVE YOUR BAGGAGE ABOARD AND WRAP YOURSELVES IN YOUR BLANKETS TO DEPLANE.
KENTUCKY FRYED CHICKEN
LET ME AT LEAST TAKE MY WHISKEY?
WHAT ABOUT MY VIOLIN? I CAN'T LEAVE IT BEHIND.
WE CAN'T LEAVE OUR BAGGAGE BEHIND!
HAVE NO FEAR! A RESCUE TEAM WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW!
NOT EVEN MY DOCTOR'S BAG?
NOT UNLESS YOU WANT TO LOSE IT TO THE WIND!
THIS VIOLIN IS MY LIFE!
WHY?
NO! LEAVE EVERYTHING ABOARD THE PLANE.
I CAN'T LEAVE IT!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. THE GALE FORCE WINDS WILL PLUCK IT FROM YOUR HANDS!

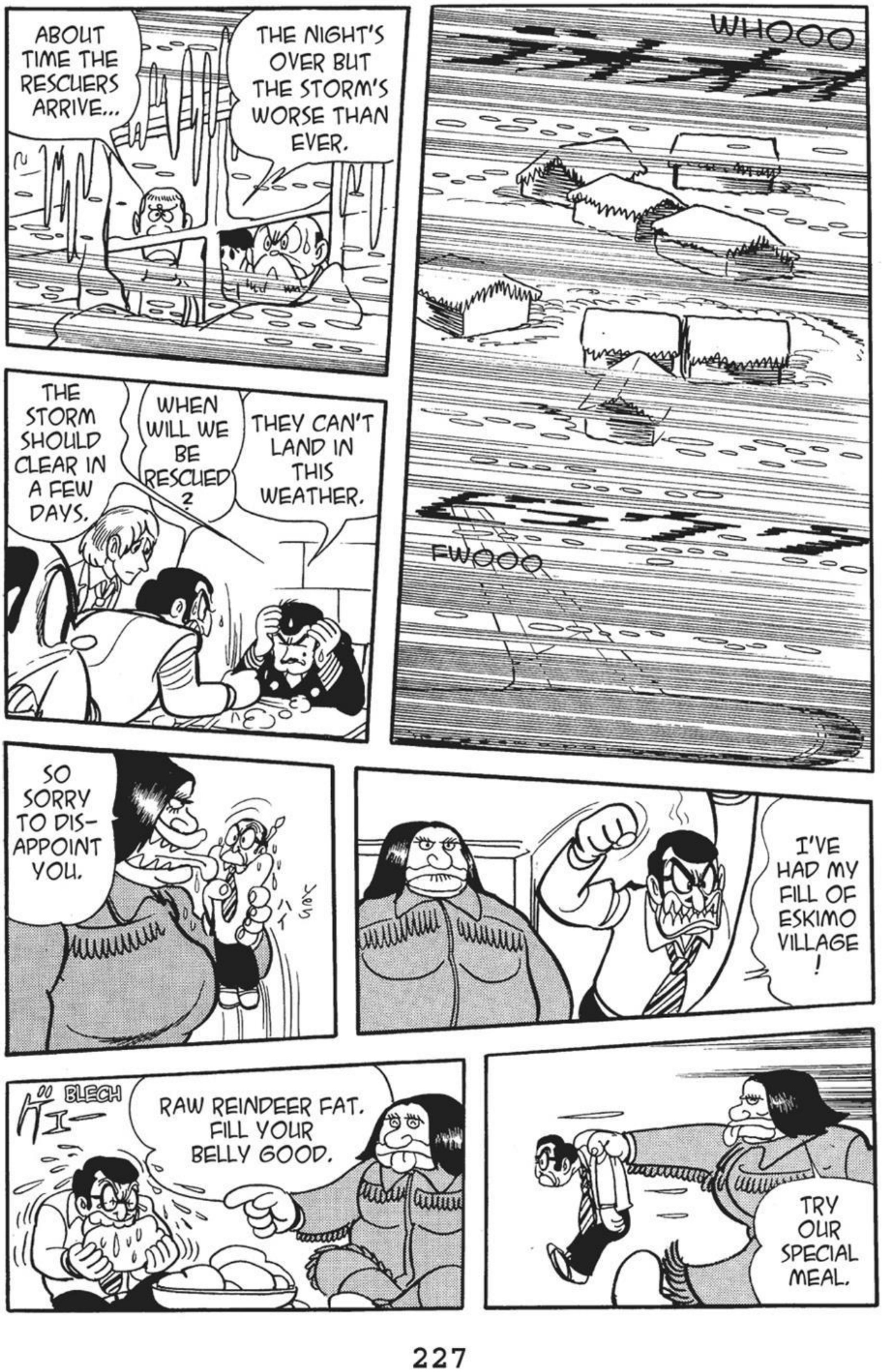

WHOOO
OOOO
WOOO
WOOO
WHOO OOO
AAH!!
M-MY VIOLIN!!
WHOO
VHOOOSH
STOP! YOU MUSTN'T GO AFTER IT!

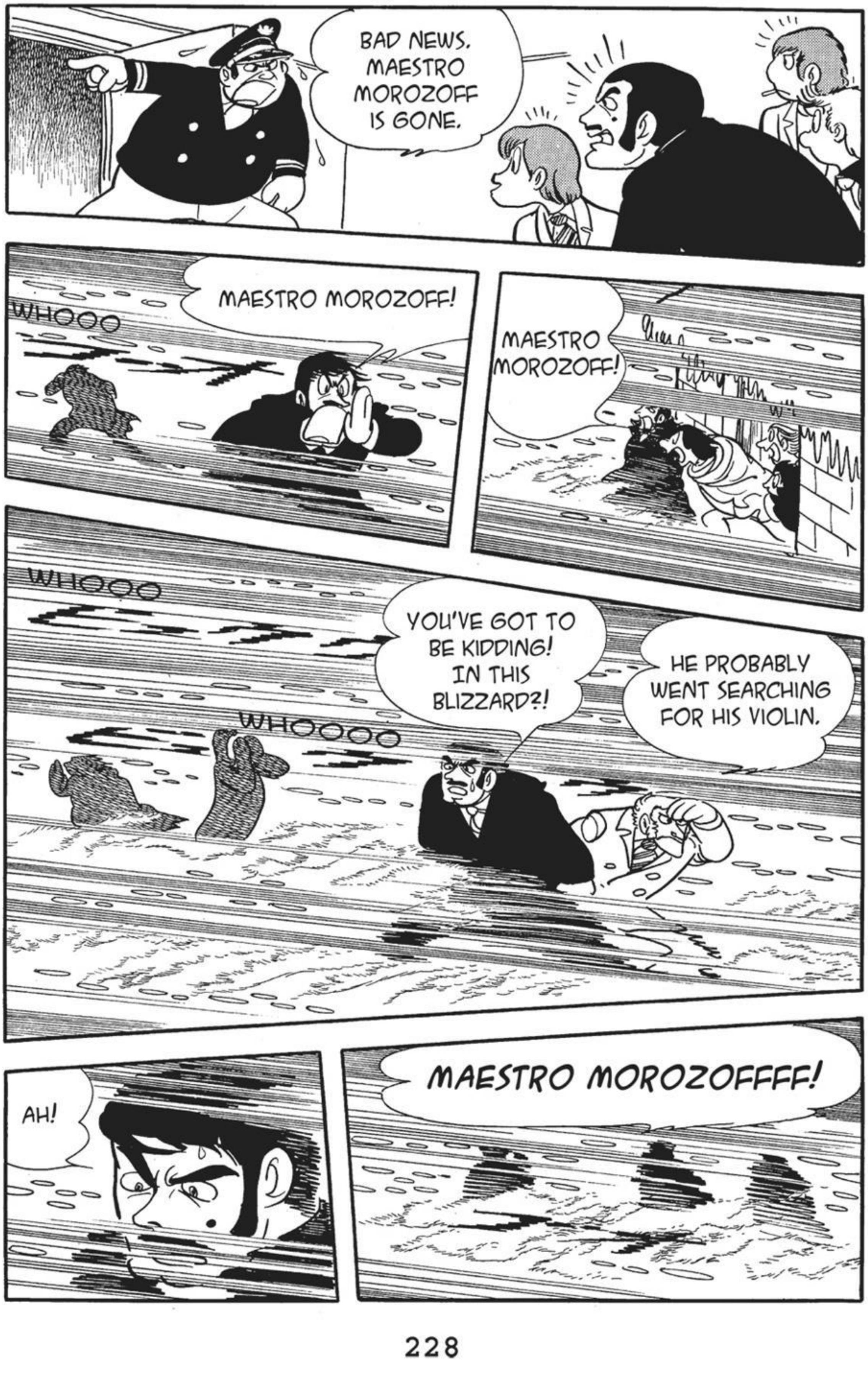

LET ME GO! THAT VIOLIN IS LIKE MY CHILD!
GIVE IT UP. I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE IT ON THE PLANE.
PLEASE, LET ME GO AFTER IT!
IT'S TOO LATE!
WHOOO OOOO
WHOOOOOO
WHOO

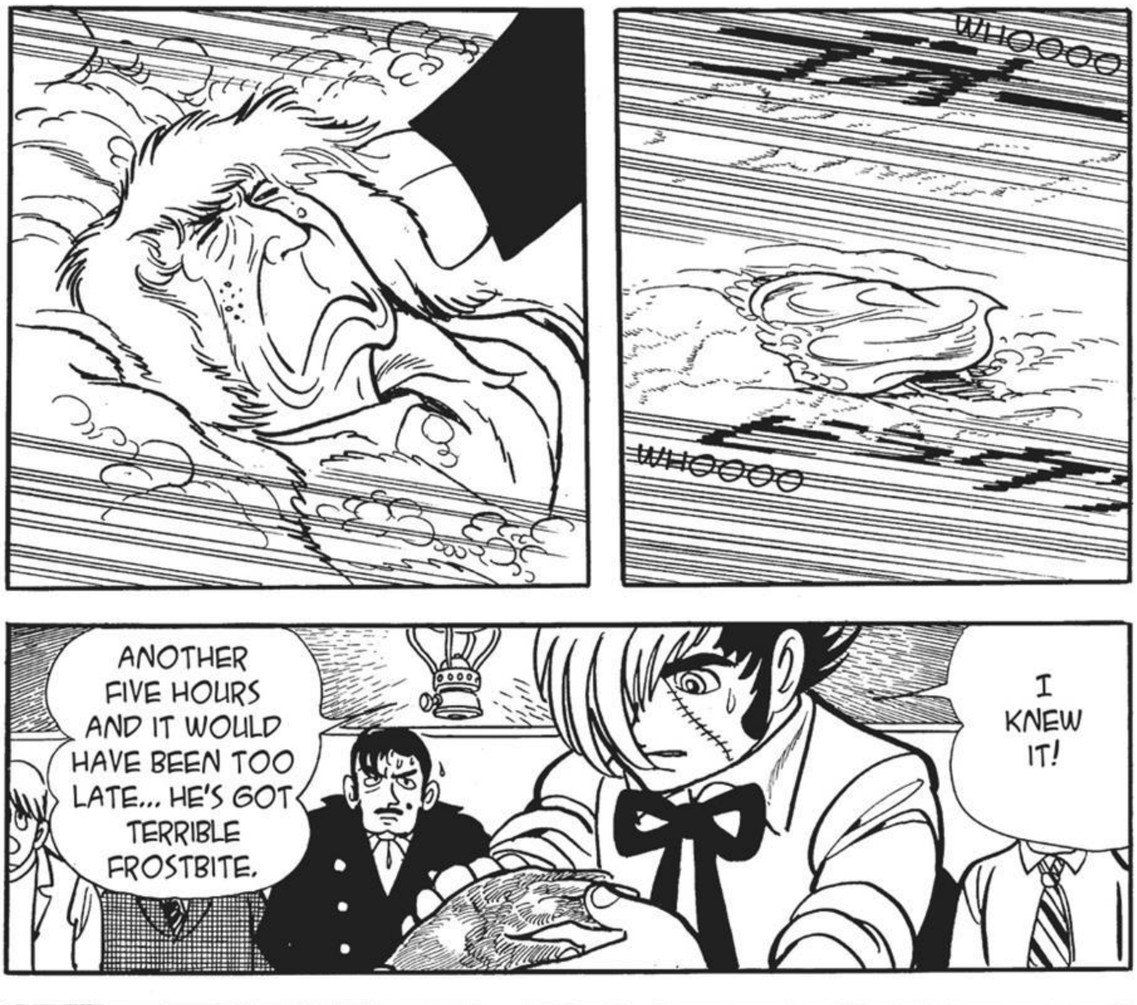

RISE
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING TO SEARCH FOR MY VIOLIN.
DON'T BE FOOLISH. YOU'LL GET YOURSELF KILLED.
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND. THAT VIOLIN IS LIKE A PART OF MY BODY.
MY FINGERS TREMBLE AND WEEP FOR ITS TOUCH.
FWOOO
CLOSE THE DOOR! IT'S COLD !!
WHOOO
WOOO
FWOOSH

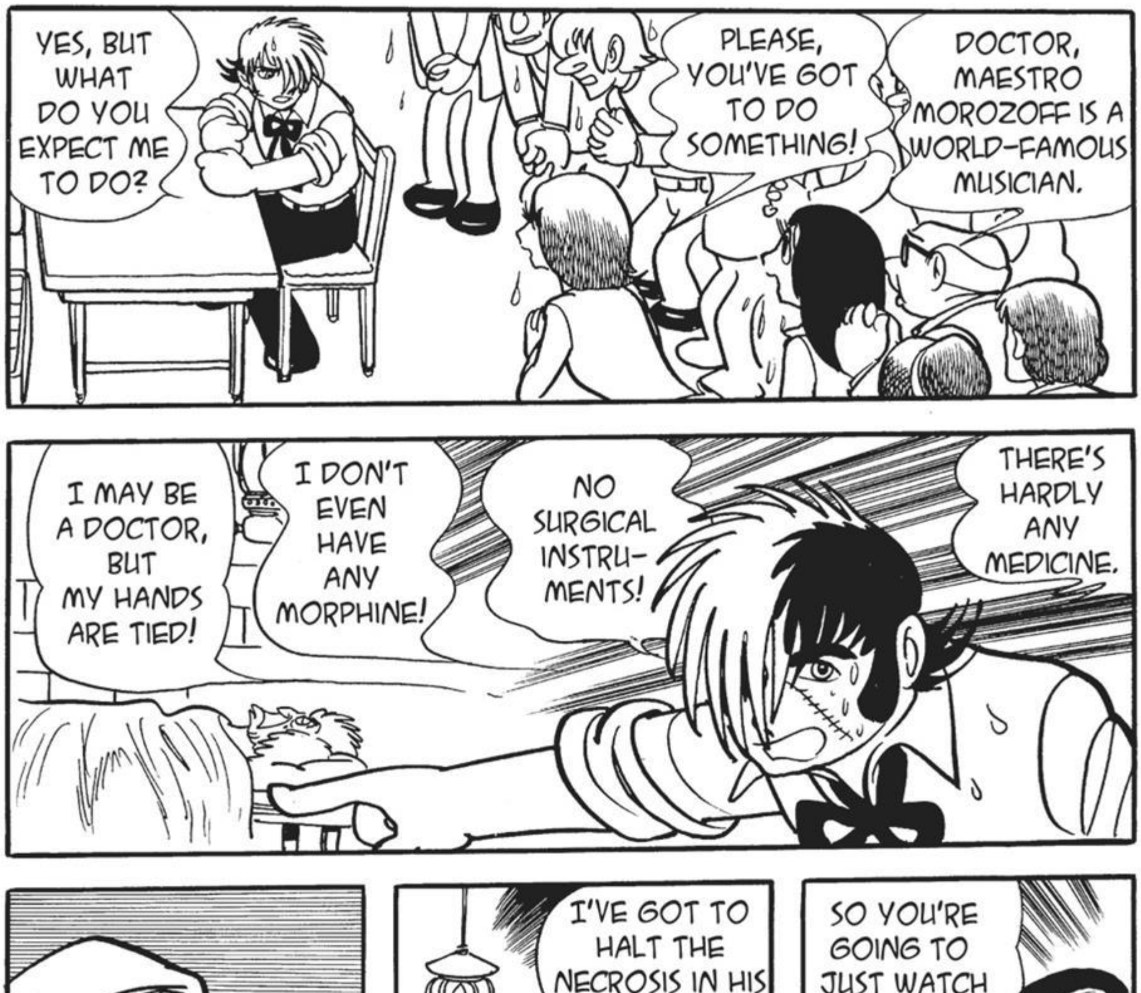

FWOOO
MY SON...
GASP
!!
MR. MOROZOFF, THIS IS INSANITY. YOU'LL GET FROSTBITE OUT HERE. AND AT YOUR AGE...
LEAVE ME BE.
I MUST FIND IT—WHATEVER THE COST.
IF YOU GET FROSTBITE, I'LL HAVE TO TREAT YOU. BUT THERE'S NO MEDICAL EQUIPMENT HERE TO SPEAK OF. I'M NOT SURE I COULD DO IT!

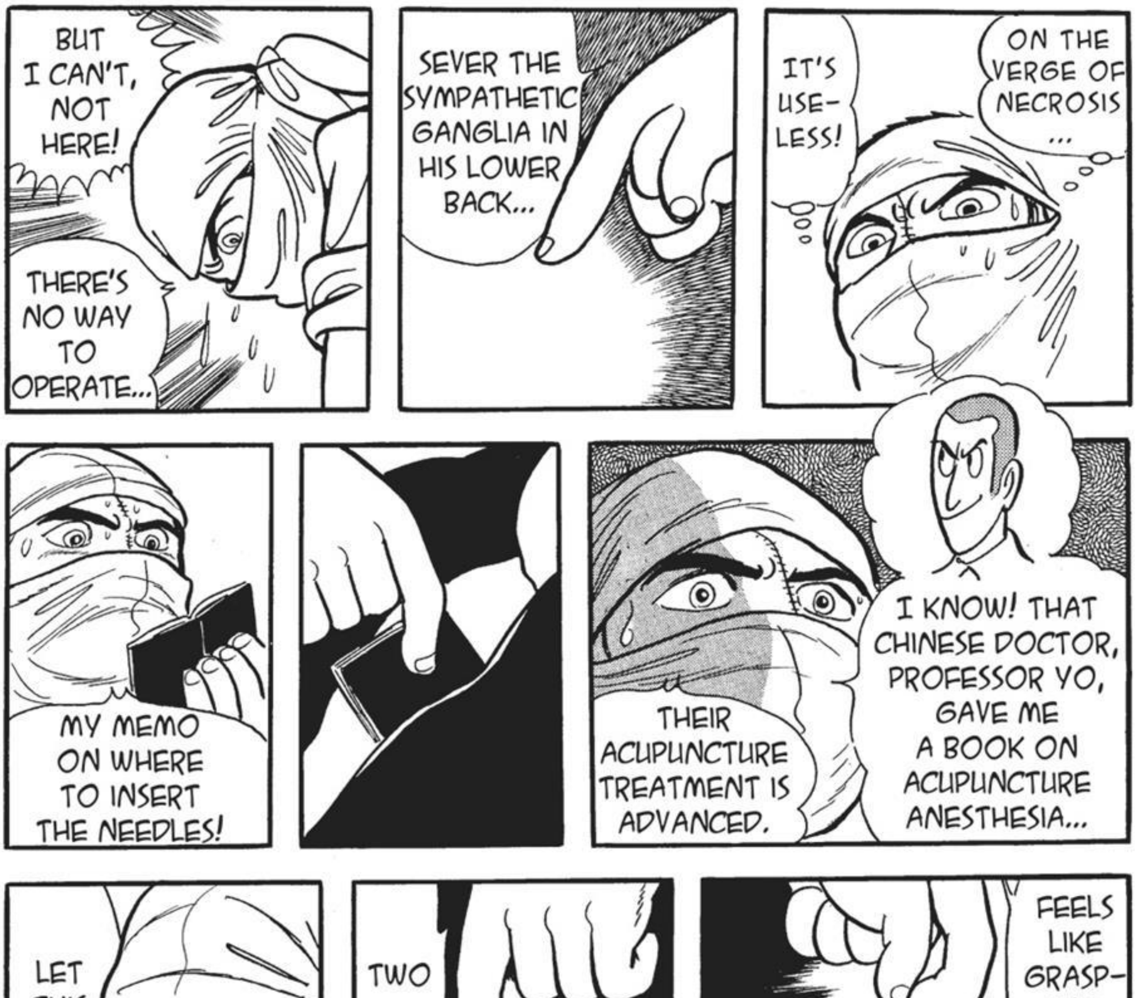

NOW, COME BACK INSIDE.
STRADIVARIUS!
THE KING OF VIOLINS—ONLY SEVERAL DOZEN ARE IN EXISTENCE.
SO MAGNIFICENT IS ITS SOUND THAT JAPANESE VIOLINIST HISAKO TSUJI SOLD HER HOME TO OBTAIN ONE.
THAT VIOLIN IS A STRADIVARIUS...
PROBABLY WORTH OVER A MILLION DOLLARS.
NO... IT'S PRICELESS.
I'M TRYING TO SLEEP HERE!
WILL YOU SHUT UP?!
THAT VIOLIN IS ALIVE.
AND IT FEELS!
TO THESE FINGERS, THAT VIOLIN WAS A LOVER... PERHAPS A WIFE.

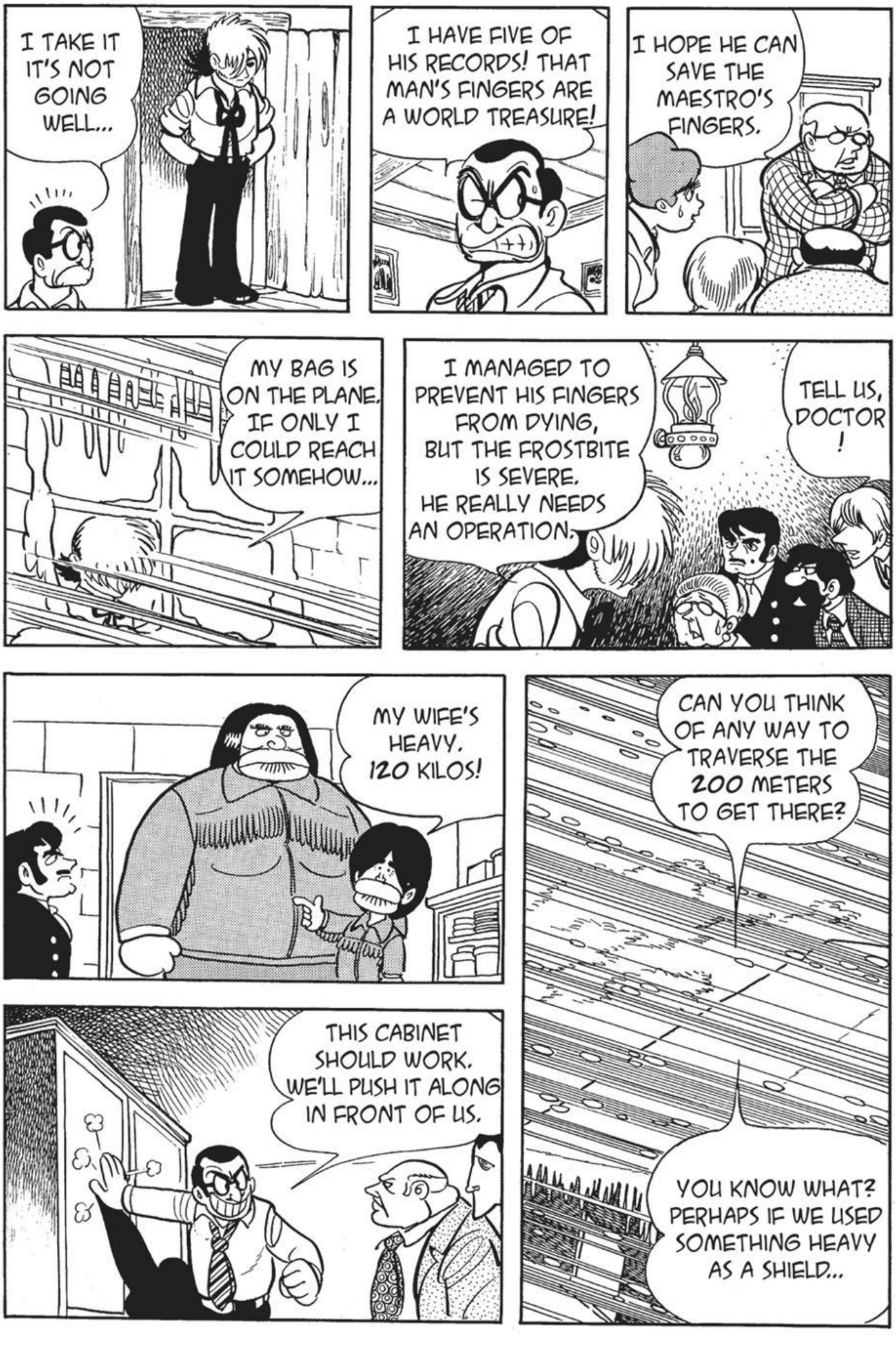

WHOOO
FWOOO
THE NIGHT'S OVER BUT THE STORM'S WORSE THAN EVER.
ABOUT TIME THE RESCUERS ARRIVE...
THEY CAN'T LAND IN THIS WEATHER.
WHEN WILL WE BE RESCUED?
THE STORM SHOULD CLEAR IN A FEW DAYS.
I'VE HAD MY FILL OF ESKIMO VILLAGE!
SO SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU.
TRY OUR SPECIAL MEAL.
RAW REINDEER FAT. FILL YOUR BELLY GOOD.
BLECH

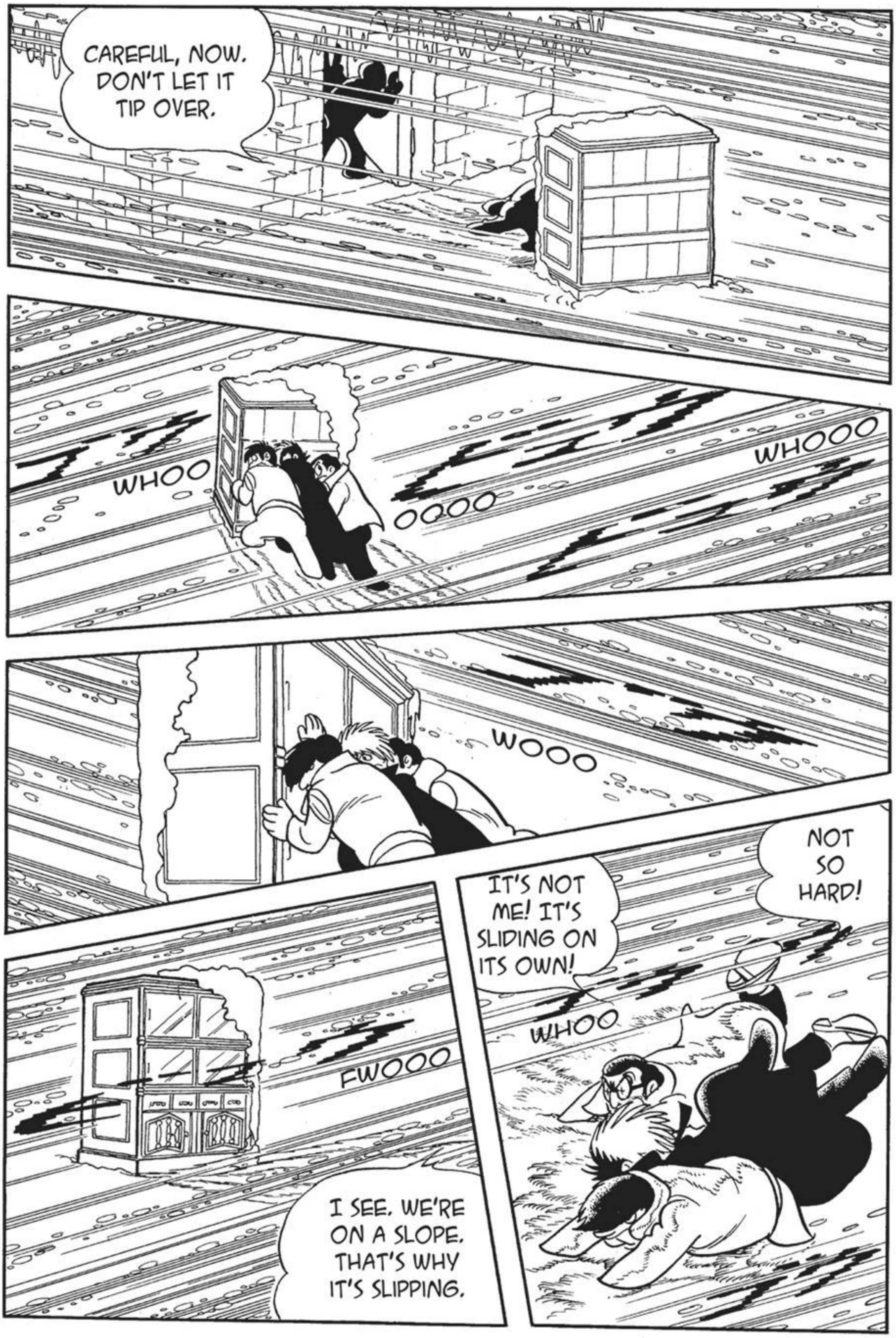

BAD NEWS. MAESTRO MOROZOFF IS GONE.
MAESTRO MOROZOFF!
WHOOO
MAESTRO MOROZOFF!
WHOOO
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! IN THIS BLIZZARD?!
HE PROBABLY WENT SEARCHING FOR HIS VIOLIN.
WHOOOO
AH!
MAESTRO MOROZOFFFF!

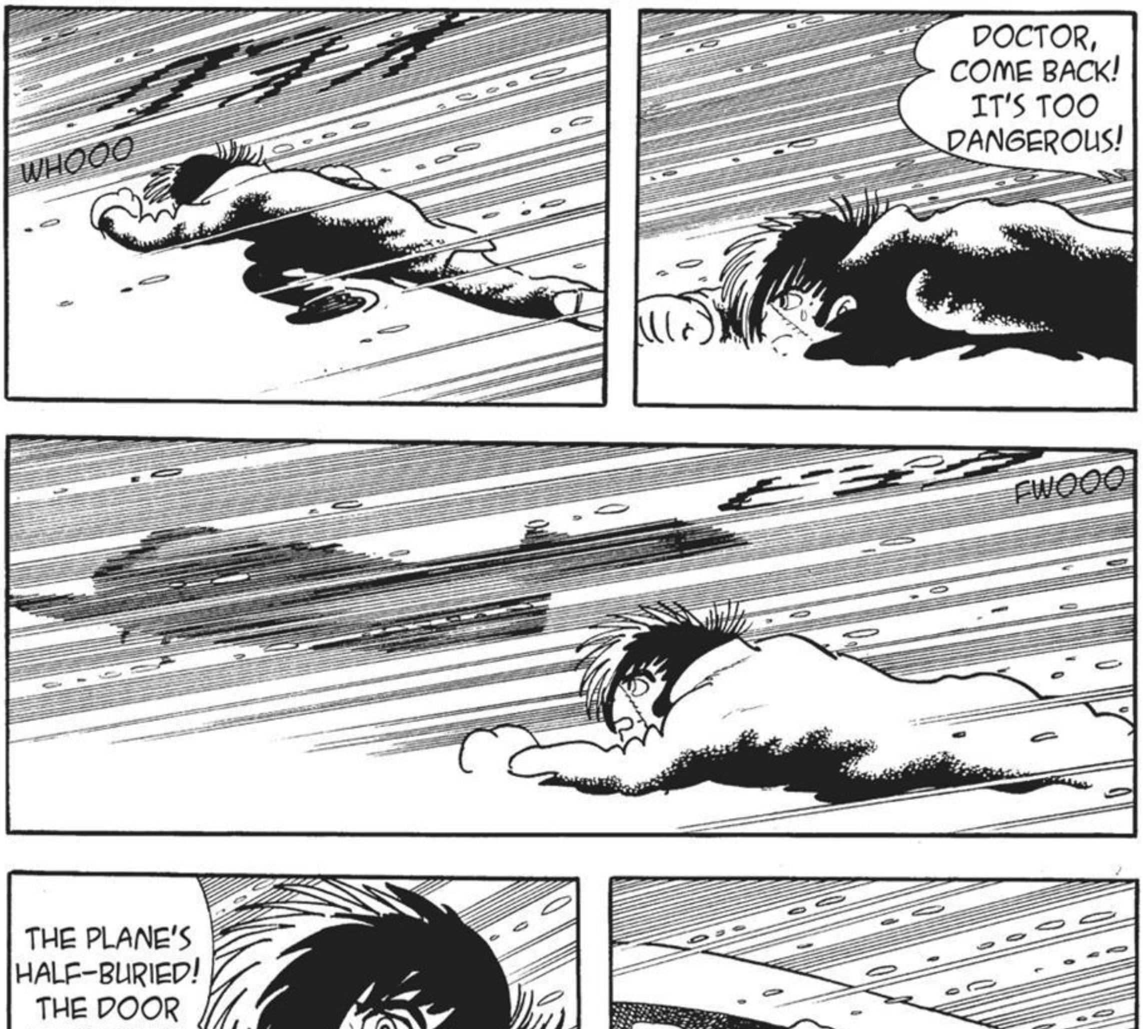

WHOOOO
WHOOOO
ANOTHER FIVE HOURS AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LATE... HE'S GOT TERRIBLE FROSTBITE.
I KNEW IT!
WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?
HE'S GOT BAD FROSTBITE IN BOTH HANDS. NEAR NECROSIS OF HIS FINGERS.
BUT HE'S A MUSICIAN! HE CAN'T LOSE HIS FINGERS!
I REALIZE THAT!
I'VE GOT PIPING HOT WATER HERE!
NO! YOU HAVE TO RAISE THE BODY TEMPERATURE GRADUALLY FIRST WITH FROSTBITE. WATER MASSAGE!

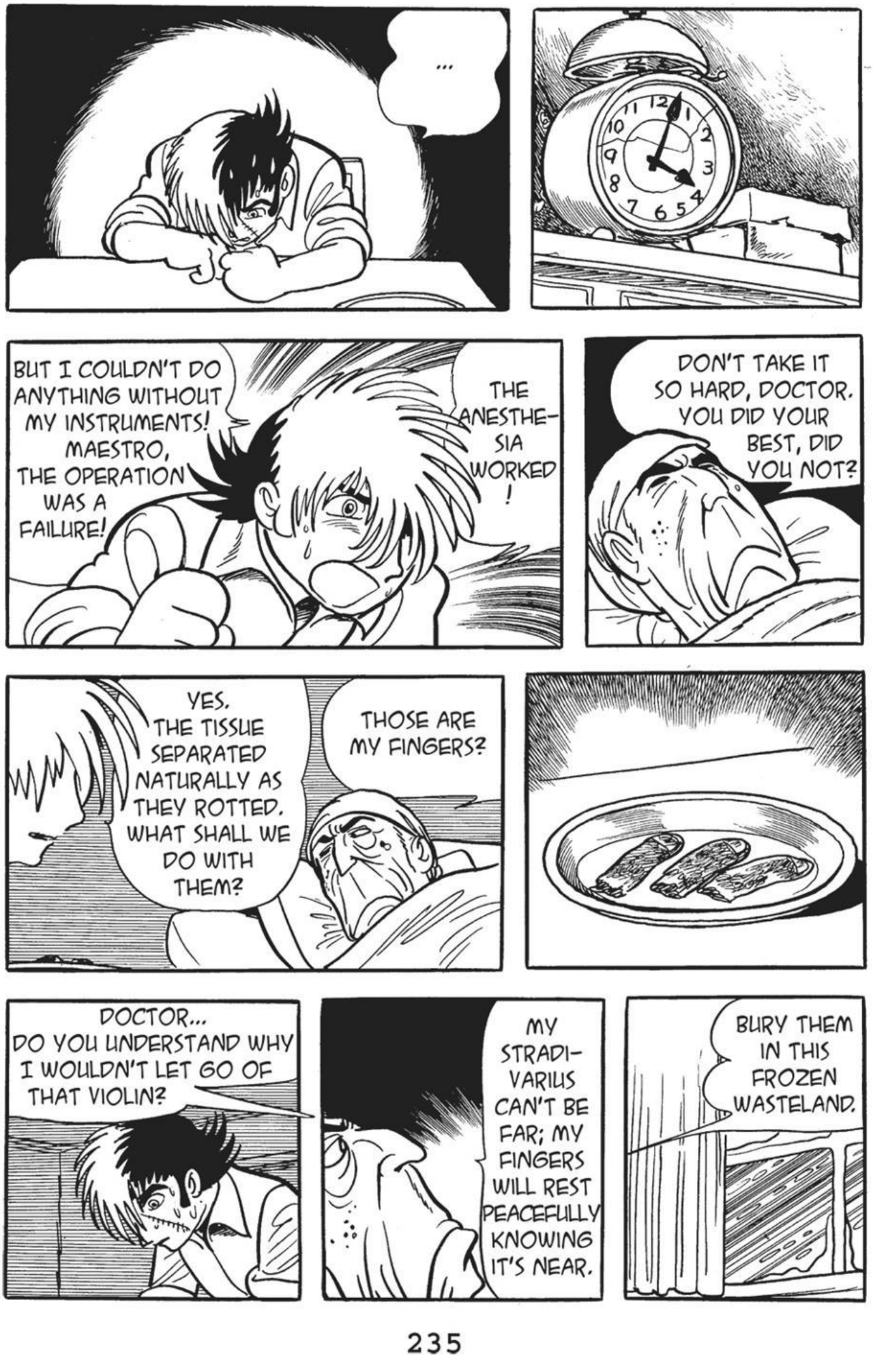

DOCTOR, MAESTRO MOROZOFF IS A WORLD-FAMOUS MUSICIAN.
PLEASE, YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
YES, BUT WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO?
THERE'S HARDLY ANY MEDICINE.
NO SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS!
I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY MORPHINE!
I MAY BE A DOCTOR, BUT MY HANDS ARE TIED!
SO YOU'RE GOING TO JUST WATCH THIS EXTRAORDINARY MUSICIAN LOSE HIS HANDS?
I'VE GOT TO HALT THE NECROSIS IN HIS FINGERS...
I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN USING WHAT WE HAVE.

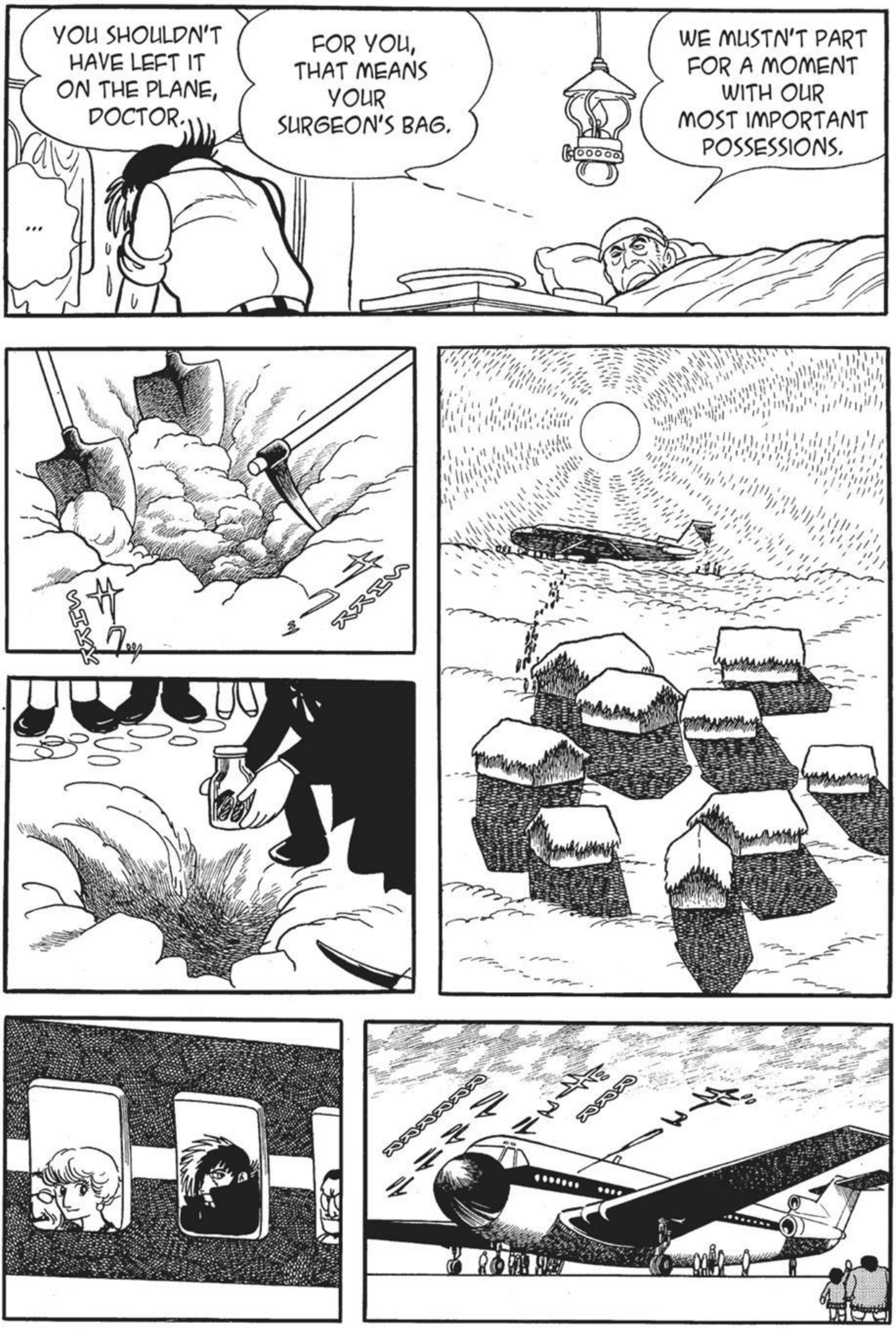

BUT I CAN'T, NOT HERE!
THERE'S NO WAY TO OPERATE...
SEVER THE SYMPATHETIC GANGLIA IN HIS LOWER BACK...
ON THE VERGE OF NECROSIS...
IT'S USELESS!
MY MEMO ON WHERE TO INSERT THE NEEDLES!
I KNOW! THAT CHINESE DOCTOR, PROFESSOR YO, GAVE ME A BOOK ON ACUPUNCTURE ANESTHESIA...
THEIR ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT IS ADVANCED.
LET THIS WORK,
ANESTHESIA...
TWO...
FEELS LIKE GRASPING AT STRAWS...
ONE...

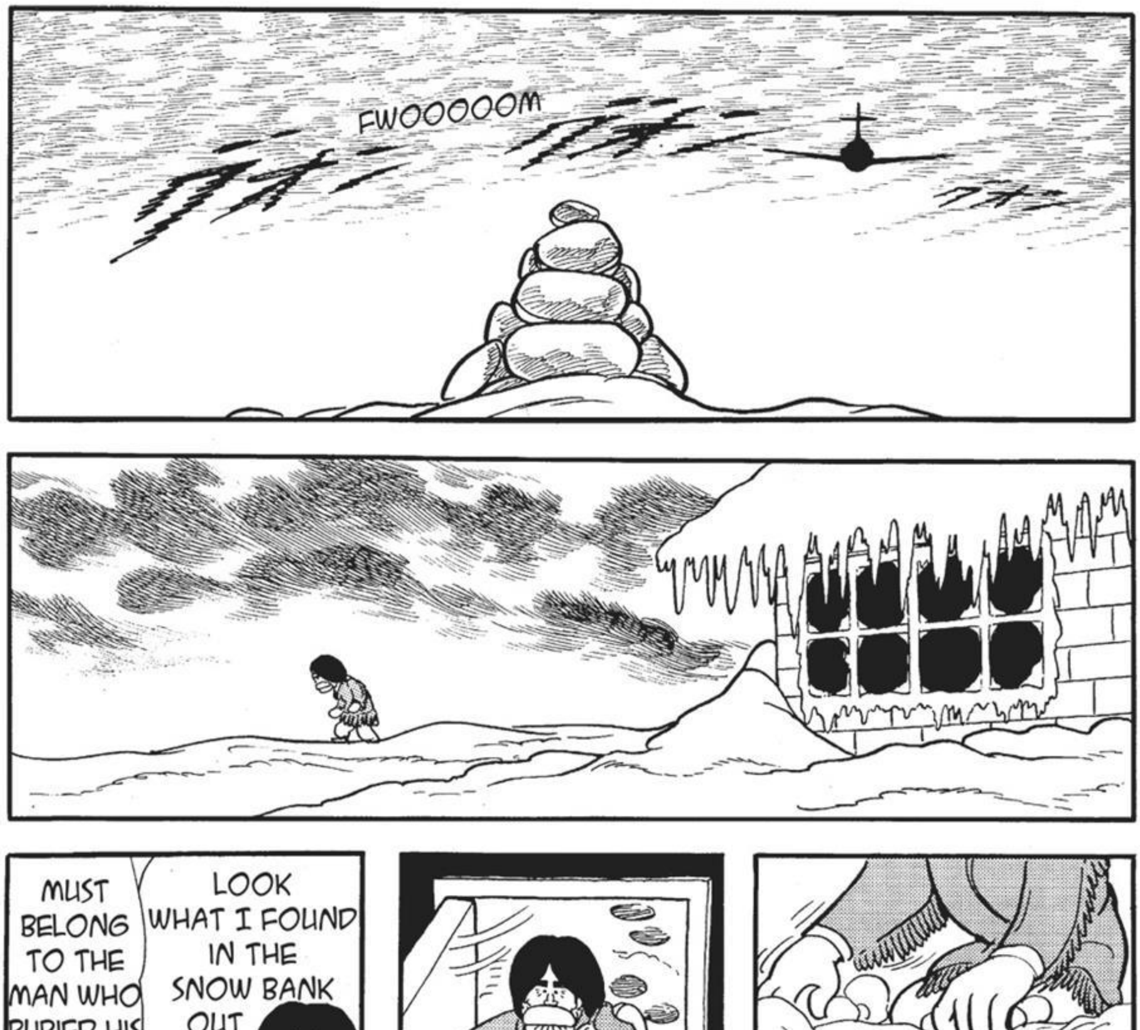

I TAKE IT IT'S NOT GOING WELL...
I HAVE FIVE OF HIS RECORDS! THAT MAN'S FINGERS ARE A WORLD TREASURE!
I HOPE HE CAN SAVE THE MAESTRO'S FINGERS.
MY BAG IS ON THE PLANE. IF ONLY I COULD REACH IT SOMEHOW...
I MANAGED TO PREVENT HIS FINGERS FROM DYING, BUT THE FROSTBITE IS SEVERE. HE REALLY NEEDS AN OPERATION.
TELL US, DOCTOR!
CAN YOU THINK OF ANY WAY TO TRAVERSE THE 200 METERS TO GET THERE?
YOU KNOW WHAT? PERHAPS IF WE USED SOMETHING HEAVY AS A SHIELD...
MY WIFE'S HEAVY. 120 KILOS!
THIS CABINET SHOULD WORK. WE'LL PUSH IT ALONG IN FRONT OF US.

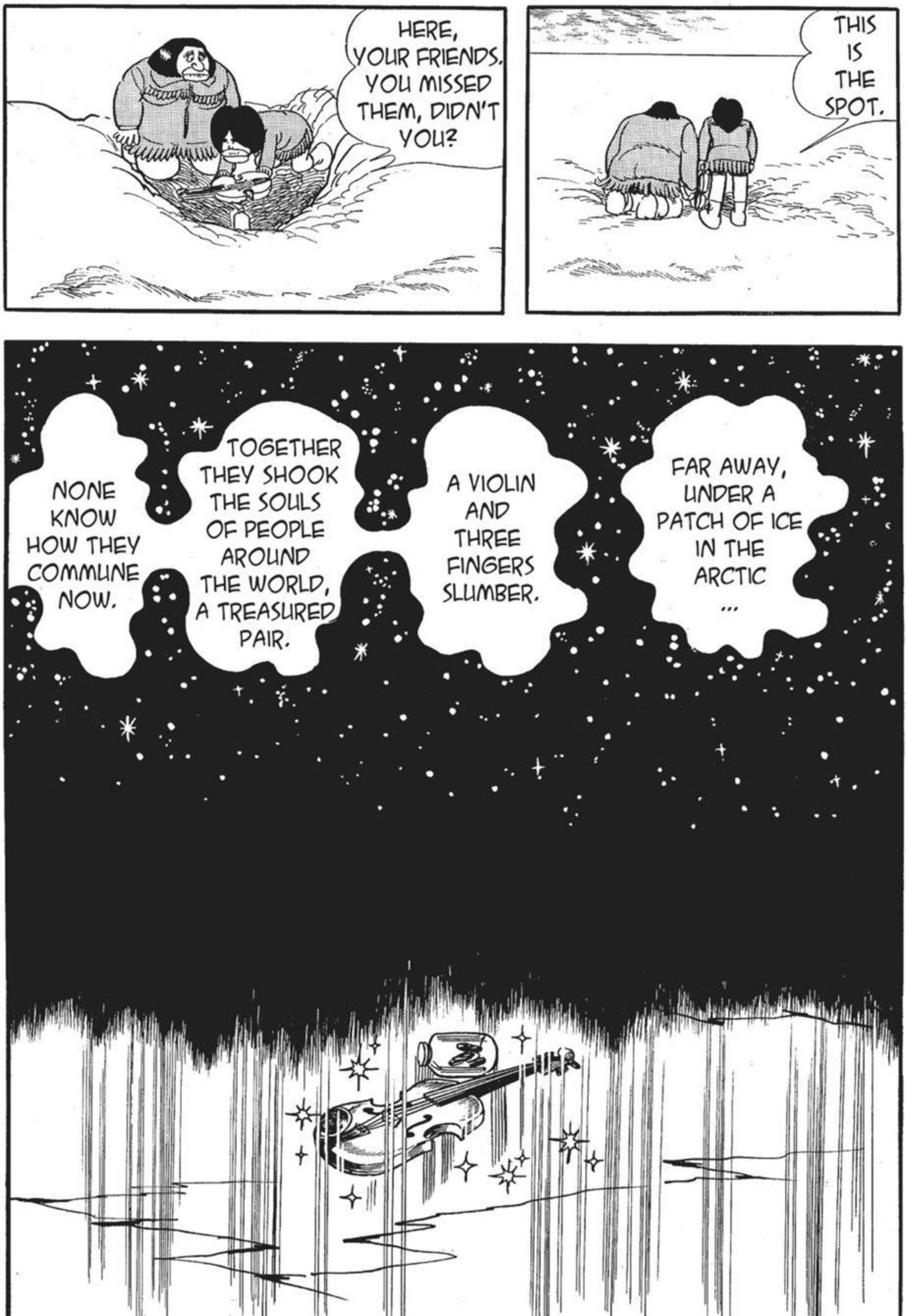

CAREFUL, NOW. DON'T LET IT TIP OVER.
WHOO
WHOOO
OOOO
WOOO
NOT SO HARD!
IT'S NOT ME! IT'S SLIDING ON ITS OWN!
WHOO
FWOOO
I SEE. WE'RE ON A SLOPE. THAT'S WHY IT'S SLIPPING.


WHOOO
DOCTOR, COME BACK! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
FWOOO
THE PLANE'S HALF-BURIED! THE DOOR IS TOTALLY SUBMERGED ...
WHOO
WHOOO
WOO
WOOO

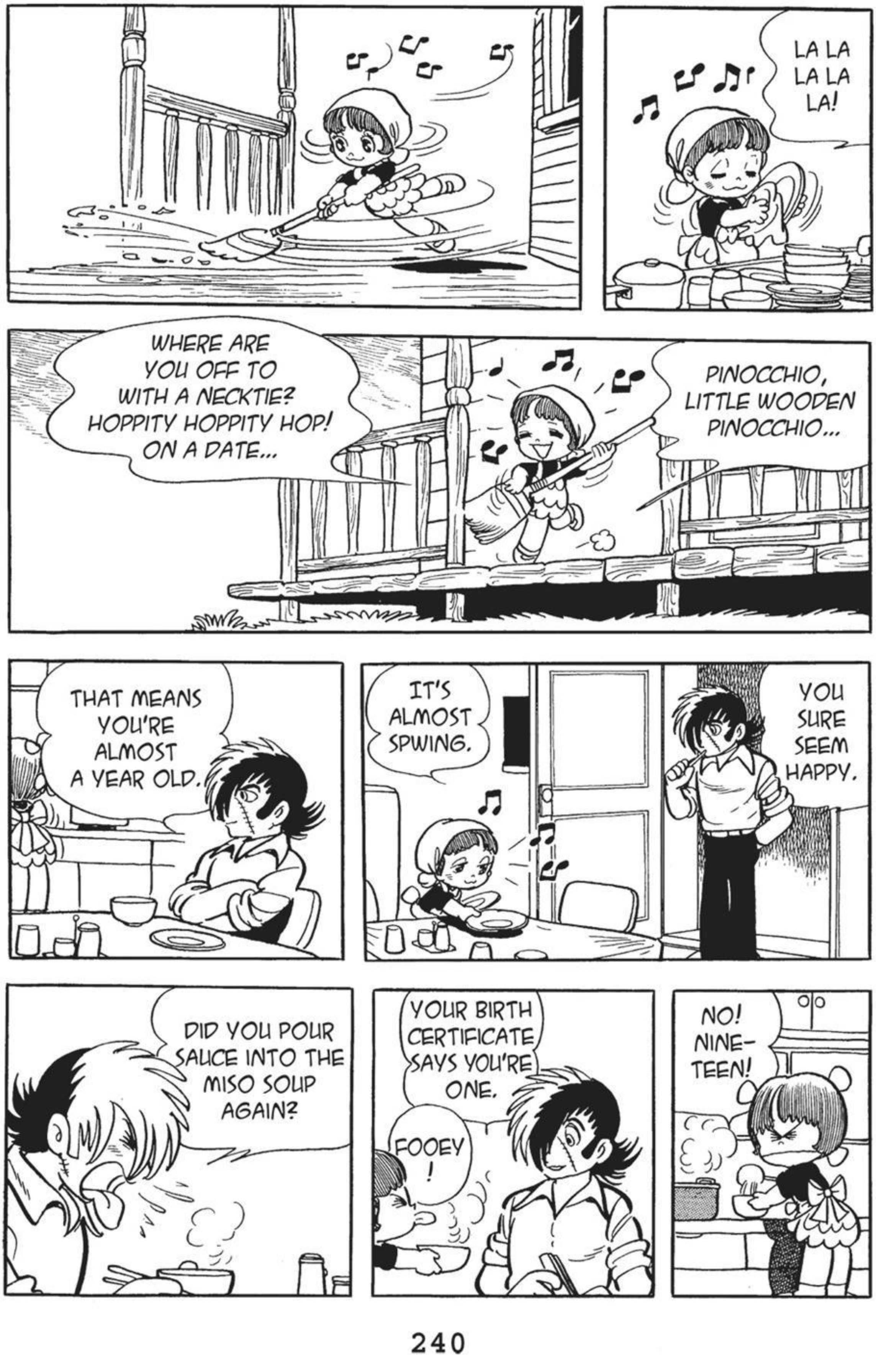

...
THE ANESTHESIA WORKED!
BUT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT MY INSTRUMENTS! MAESTRO, THE OPERATION WAS A FAILURE!
DON'T TAKE IT SO HARD, DOCTOR. YOU DID YOUR BEST, DID YOU NOT?
THOSE ARE MY FINGERS?
YES. THE TISSUE SEPARATED NATURALLY AS THEY ROTTED. WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THEM?
DOCTOR... DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I WOULDN'T LET GO OF THAT VIOLIN?
MY STRADIVARIUS CAN'T BE FAR; MY FINGERS WILL REST PEACEFULLY KNOWING IT'S NEAR.
BURY THEM IN THIS FROZEN WASTELAND.

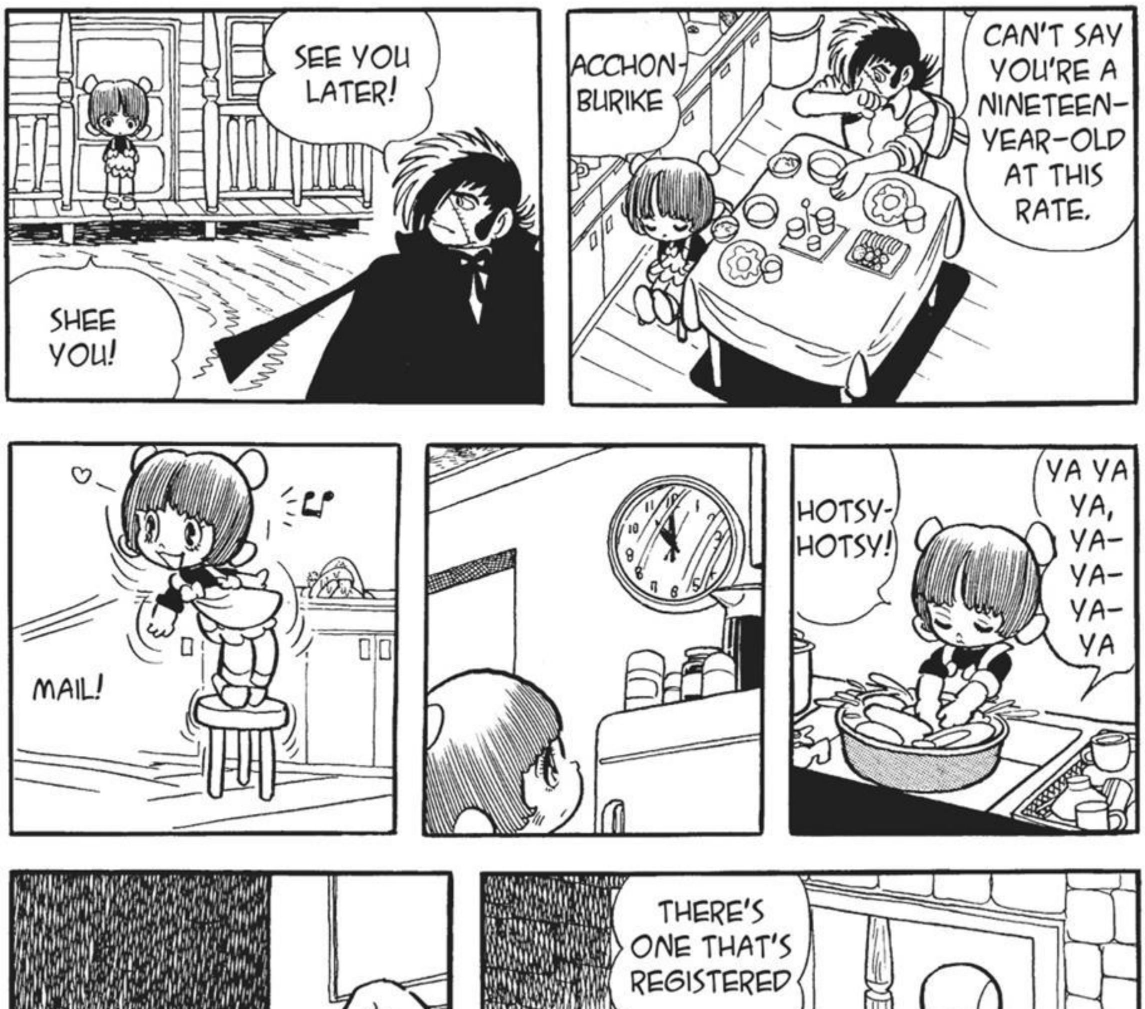

WE MUSTN'T PART FOR A MOMENT WITH OUR MOST IMPORTANT POSSESSIONS.
FOR YOU, THAT MEANS YOUR SURGEON'S BAG.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT IT ON THE PLANE, DOCTOR.
...
SHKK
SHKK
RRRR
RRRRRRRR


FWOOOOOM
OH!
WIFE!
LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN THE SNOW BANK OUT BACK!
MUST BELONG TO THE MAN WHO BURIED HIS FINGERS!
NOW WHAT? WE HAVE NO IDEA WHO HE WAS.
I KNOW, WE'LL BURY IT WITH HIS FINGERS.

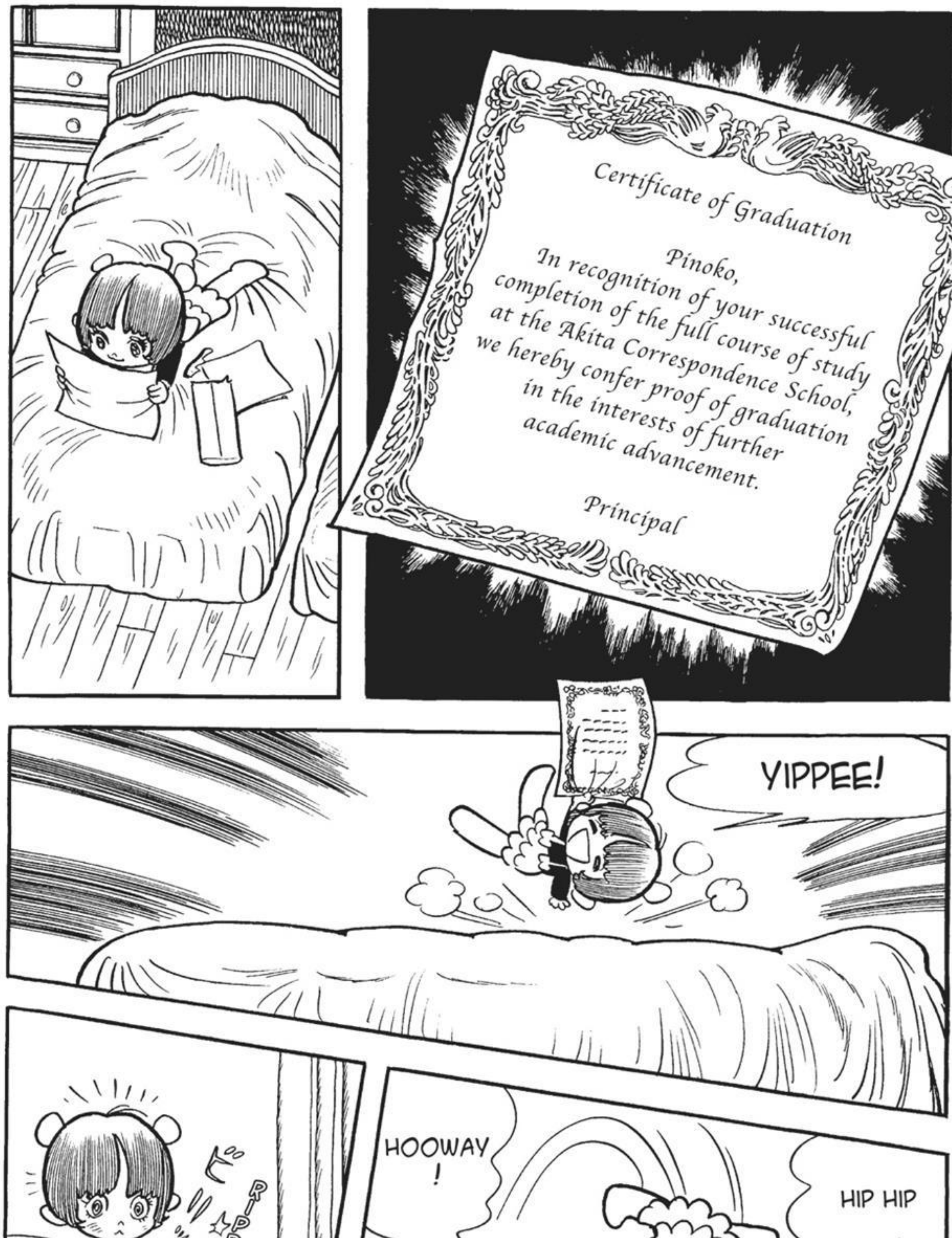

THIS IS THE SPOT.
HERE, YOUR FRIENDS. YOU MISSED THEM, DIDN'T YOU?
FAR AWAY, UNDER A PATCH OF ICE IN THE ARCTIC ...
A VIOLIN AND THREE FINGERS SLUMBER.
TOGETHER THEY SHOOK THE SOULS OF PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, A TREASURED PAIR.
NONE KNOW HOW THEY COMMUNE NOW.

PINOKO'S CHALLENGE


LA LA LA LA LA!
PINOCCHIO, LITTLE WOODEN PINOCCHIO...
WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO WITH A NECKTIE? HOPPITY HOPPITY HOP! ON A DATE...
YOU SURE SEEM HAPPY.
IT'S ALMOST SPWING.
THAT MEANS YOU'RE ALMOST A YEAR OLD.
NO! NINE-TEEN!
YOUR BIRTH CERTIFICATE SAYS YOU'RE ONE.
FOOEY!
DID YOU POUR SAUCE INTO THE MISO SOUP AGAIN?


SEE YOU LATER!
SHEE YOU!
ACCHONBURIKE
CAN'T SAY YOU'RE A NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD AT THIS RATE.
MAIL!
HOTSY-HOTSY!
YA YA YA, YA-YA-YA-YA
THERE'S ONE THAT'S REGISTERED ...
THAT'S MINE!
SMACK

NOTE: THE PINOKO-ISM "ACCHONBURIKE" IS, LIKE MANY WORDS COINED BY CHILDREN, DEVOID OF ANY KNOWN FIXED MEANING.

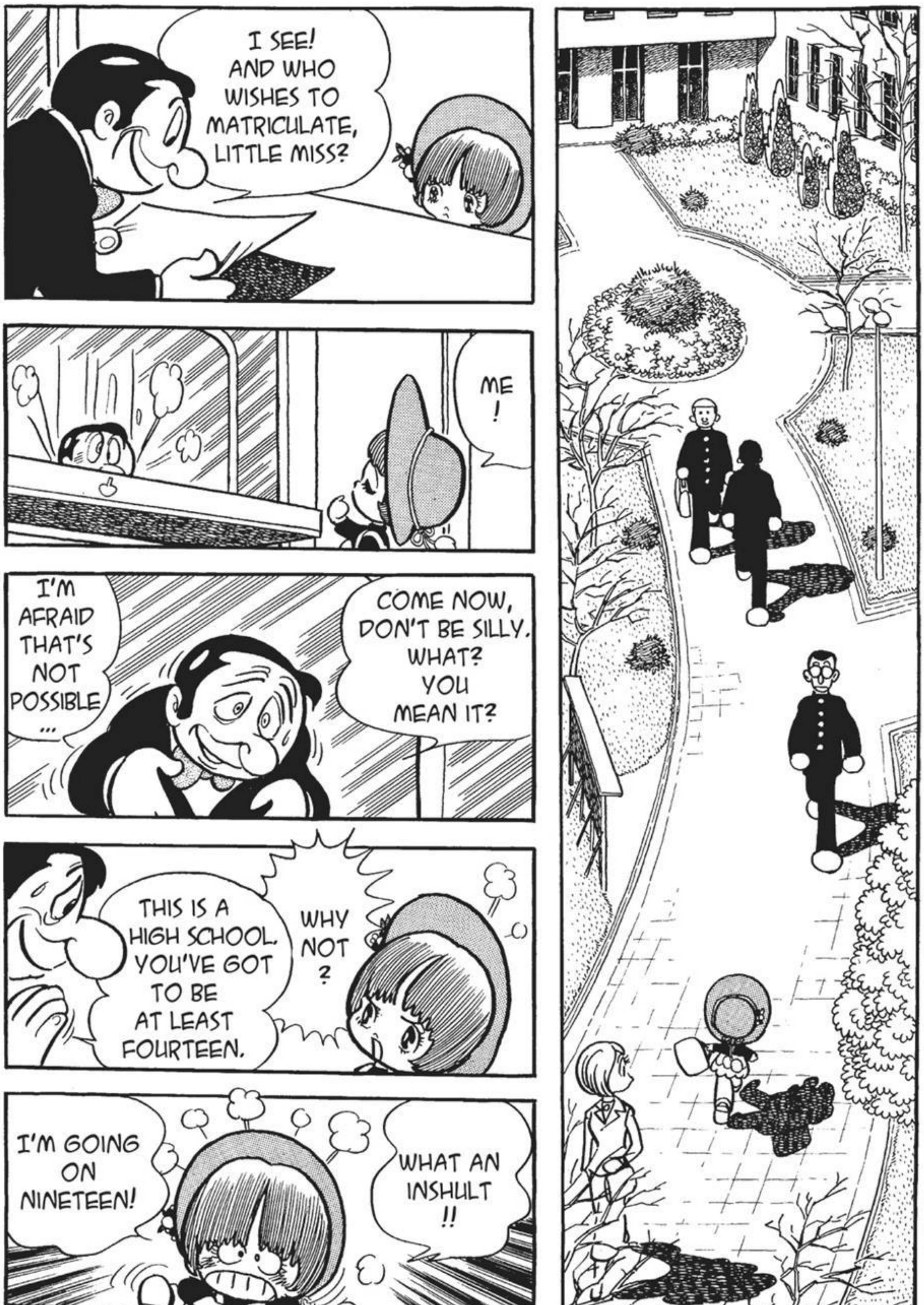


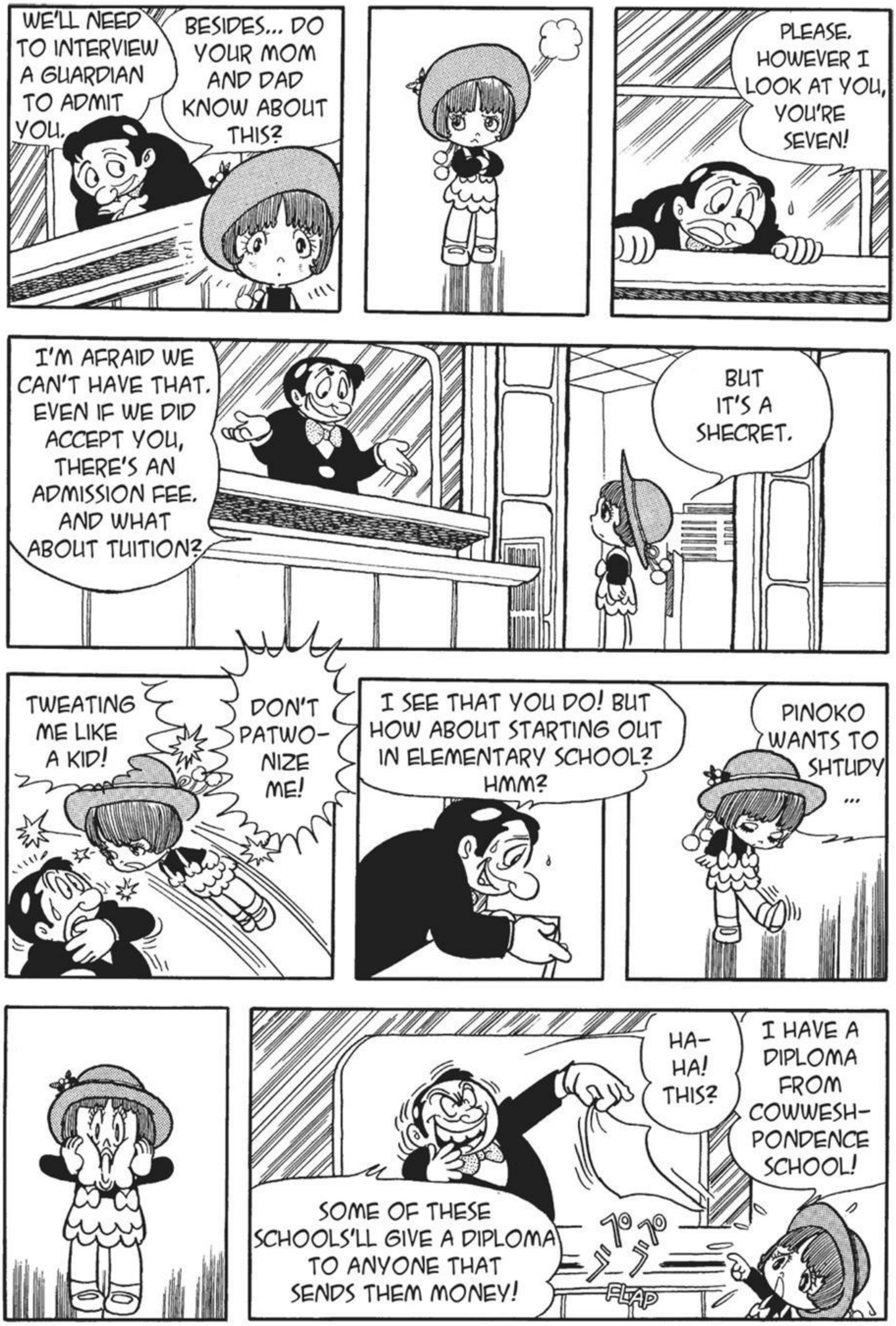
Certificate of Graduation

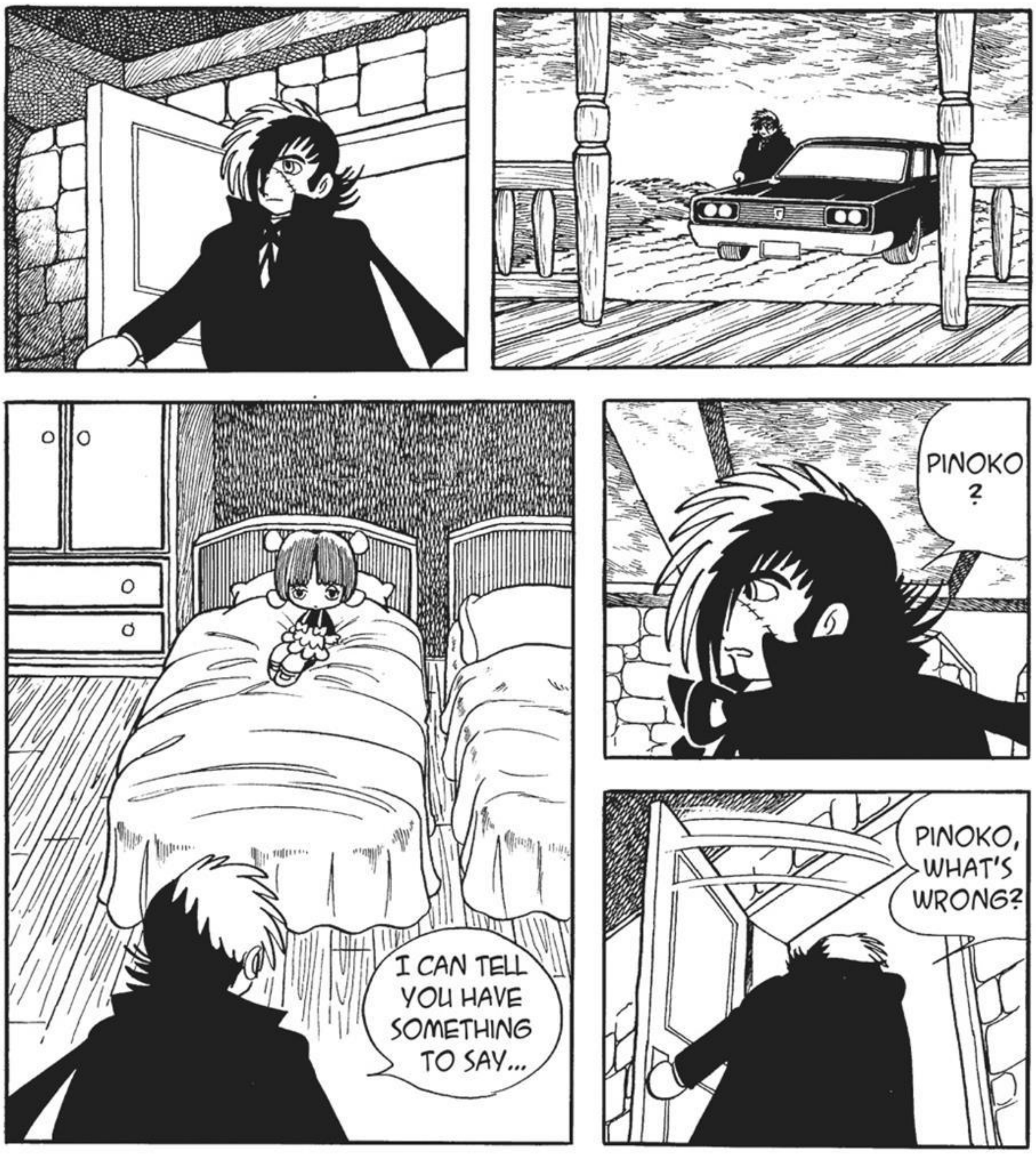
Pinoko,
In recognition of your successful
completion of the full course of study
at the Akita Correspondence School,
we hereby confer proof of graduation
in the interests of further
academic advancement.

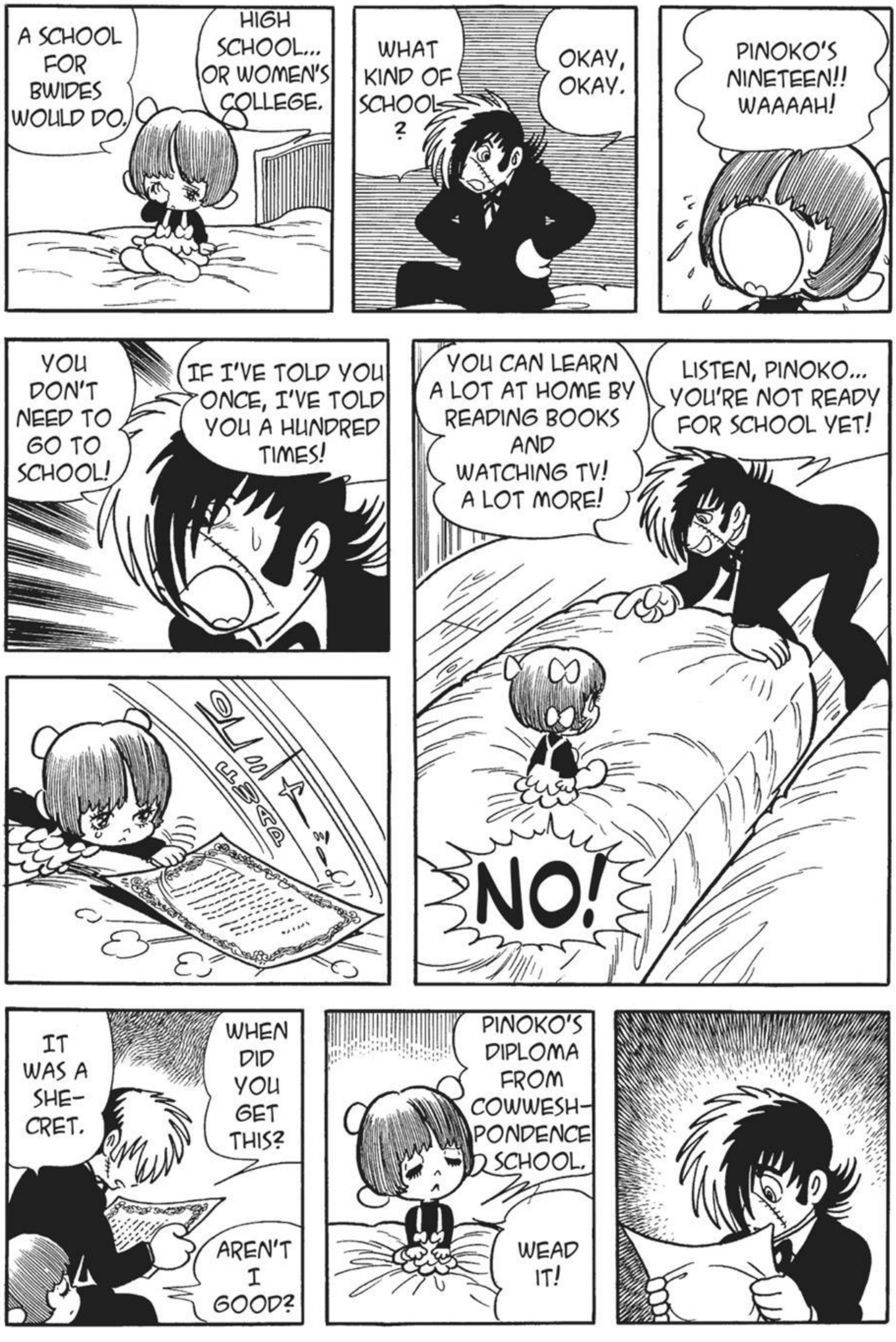
Principal

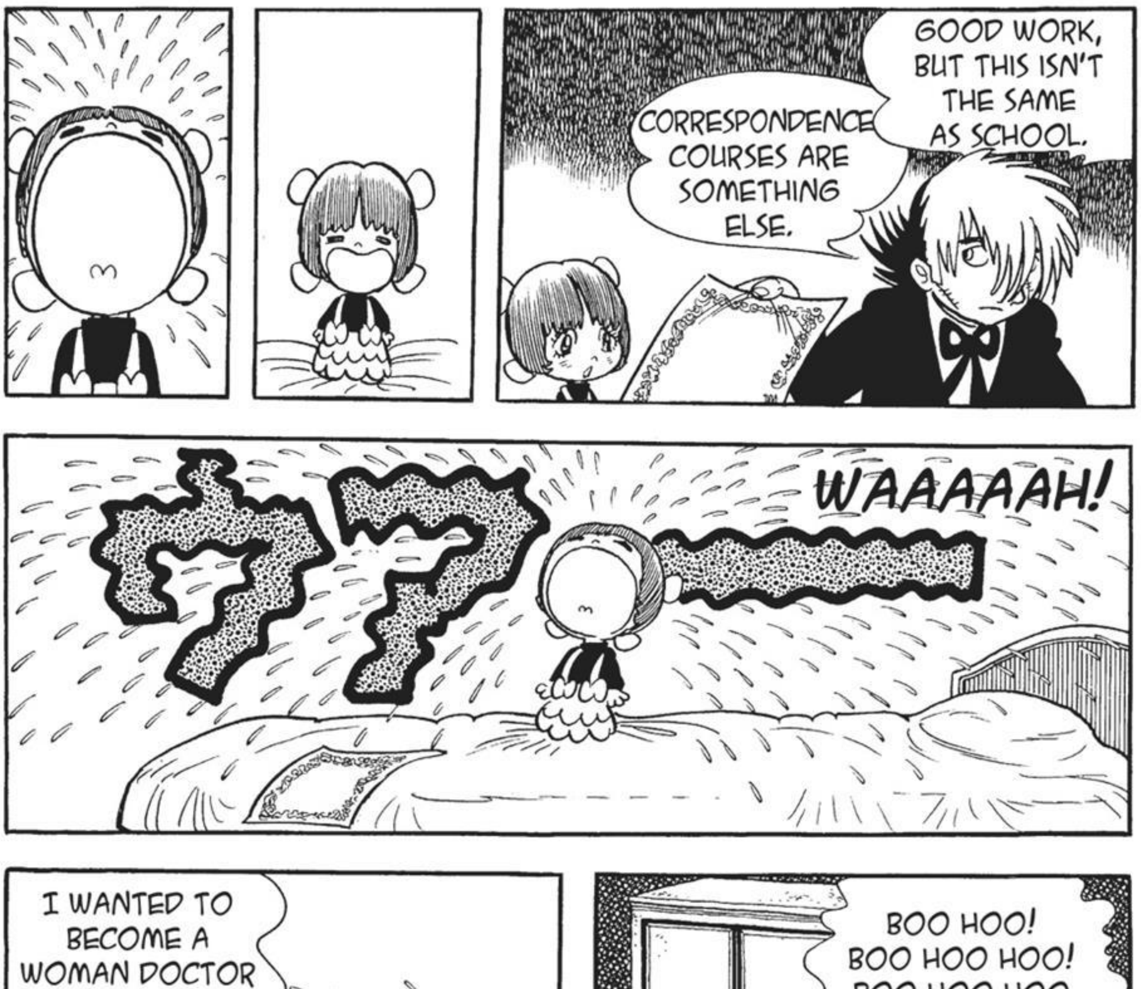
YIPPEE!
HIP HIP
HOOWAY !
RIPP

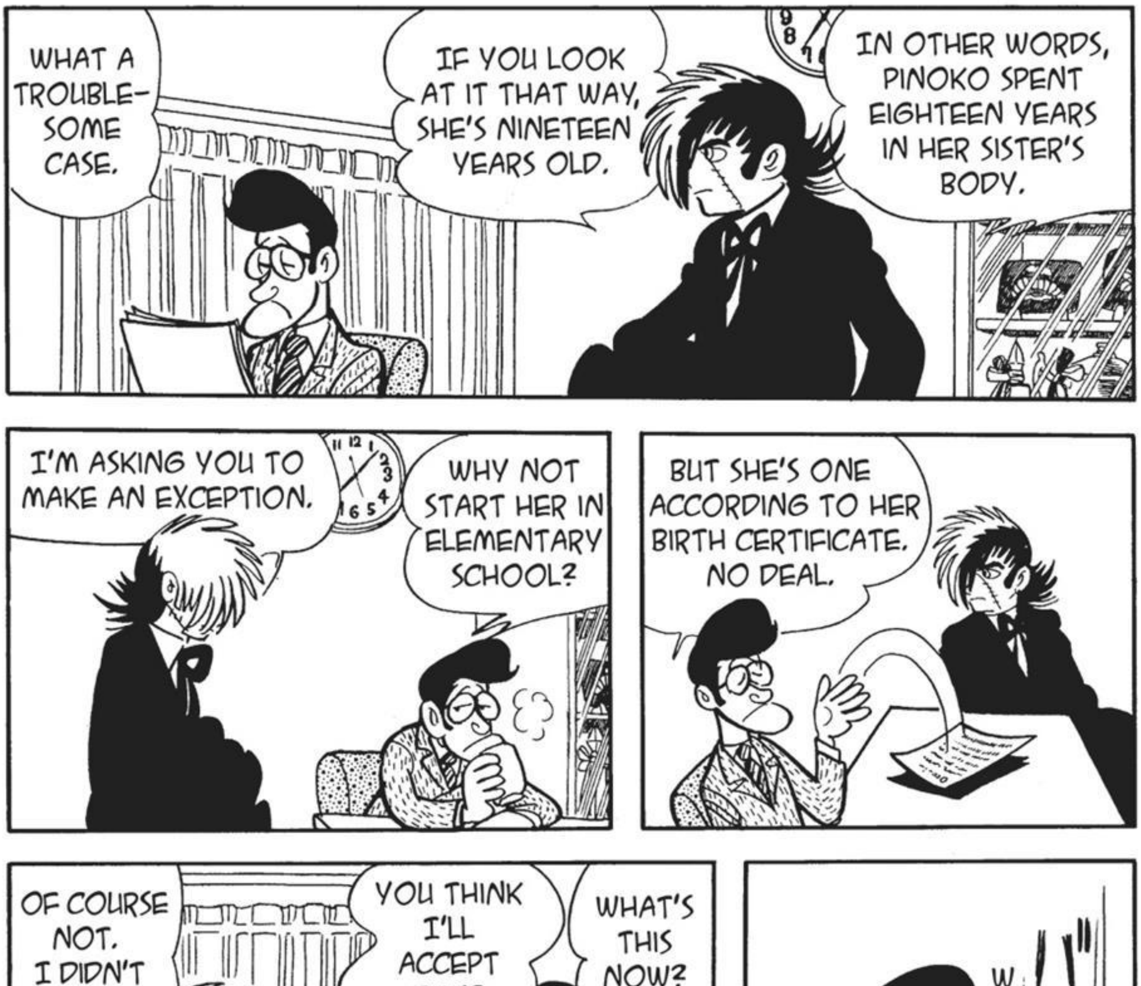

I SEE! AND WHO WISHES TO MATRICULATE, LITTLE MISS?
ME!
I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
COME NOW, DON'T BE SILLY. WHAT? YOU MEAN IT?
THIS IS A HIGH SCHOOL. YOU'VE GOT TO BE AT LEAST FOURTEEN.
WHY NOT?
I'M GOING ON NINETEEN!
WHAT AN INSHULT!!

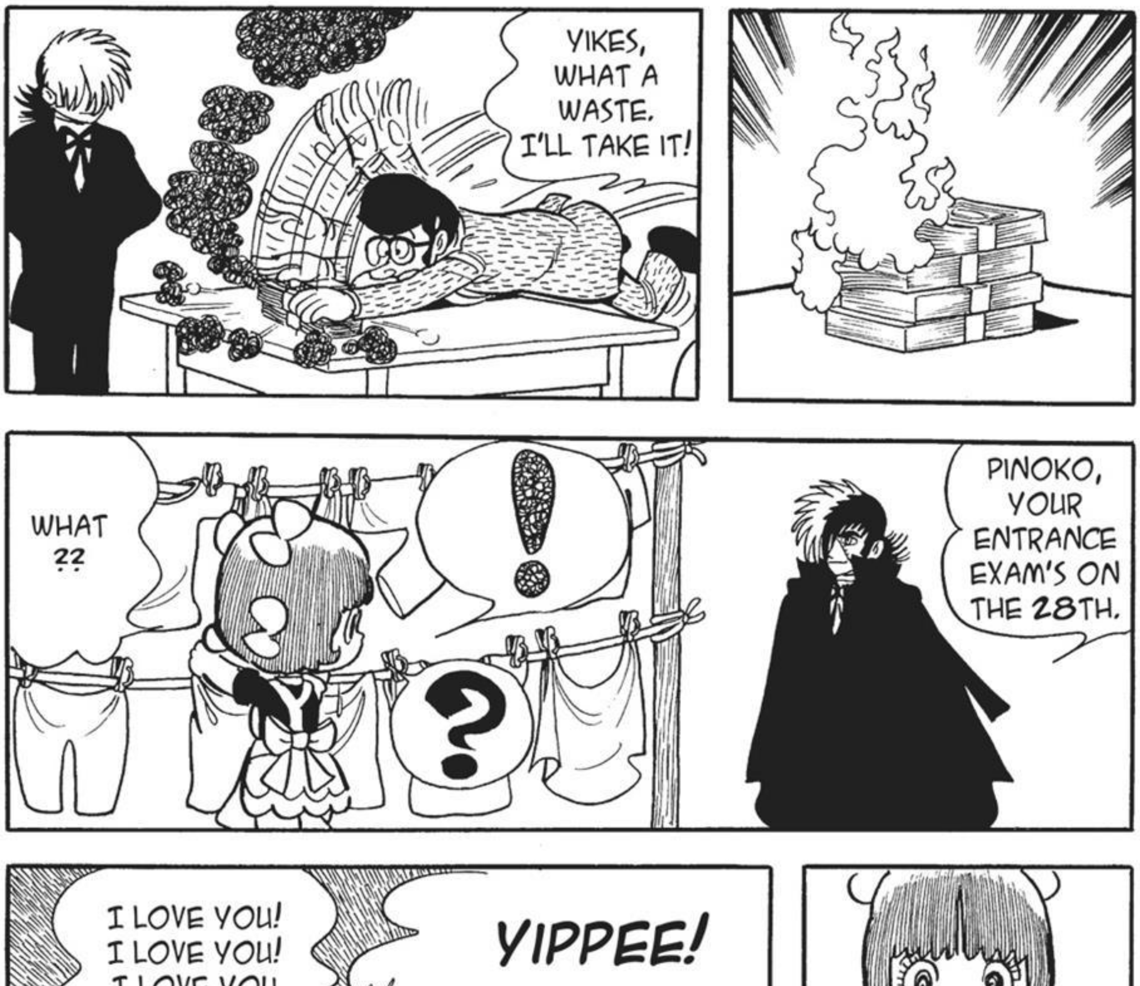

WE'LL NEED TO INTERVIEW A GUARDIAN TO ADMIT YOU.
BESIDES... DO YOUR MOM AND DAD KNOW ABOUT THIS?
PLEASE. HOWEVER I LOOK AT YOU, YOU'RE SEVEN!
I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T HAVE THAT. EVEN IF WE DID ACCEPT YOU, THERE'S AN ADMISSION FEE. AND WHAT ABOUT TUITION?
BUT IT'S A SHECRET.
TWEATING ME LIKE A KID!
DON'T PATWONIZE ME!
I SEE THAT YOU DO! BUT HOW ABOUT STARTING OUT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL? HMM?
PINOKO WANTS TO SHTUDY ...
HA-HA! THIS?
I HAVE A DIPLOMA FROM COWWESHPONDENCE SCHOOL!
SOME OF THESE SCHOOLS'LL GIVE A DIPLOMA TO ANYONE THAT SENDS THEM MONEY!
FLAP

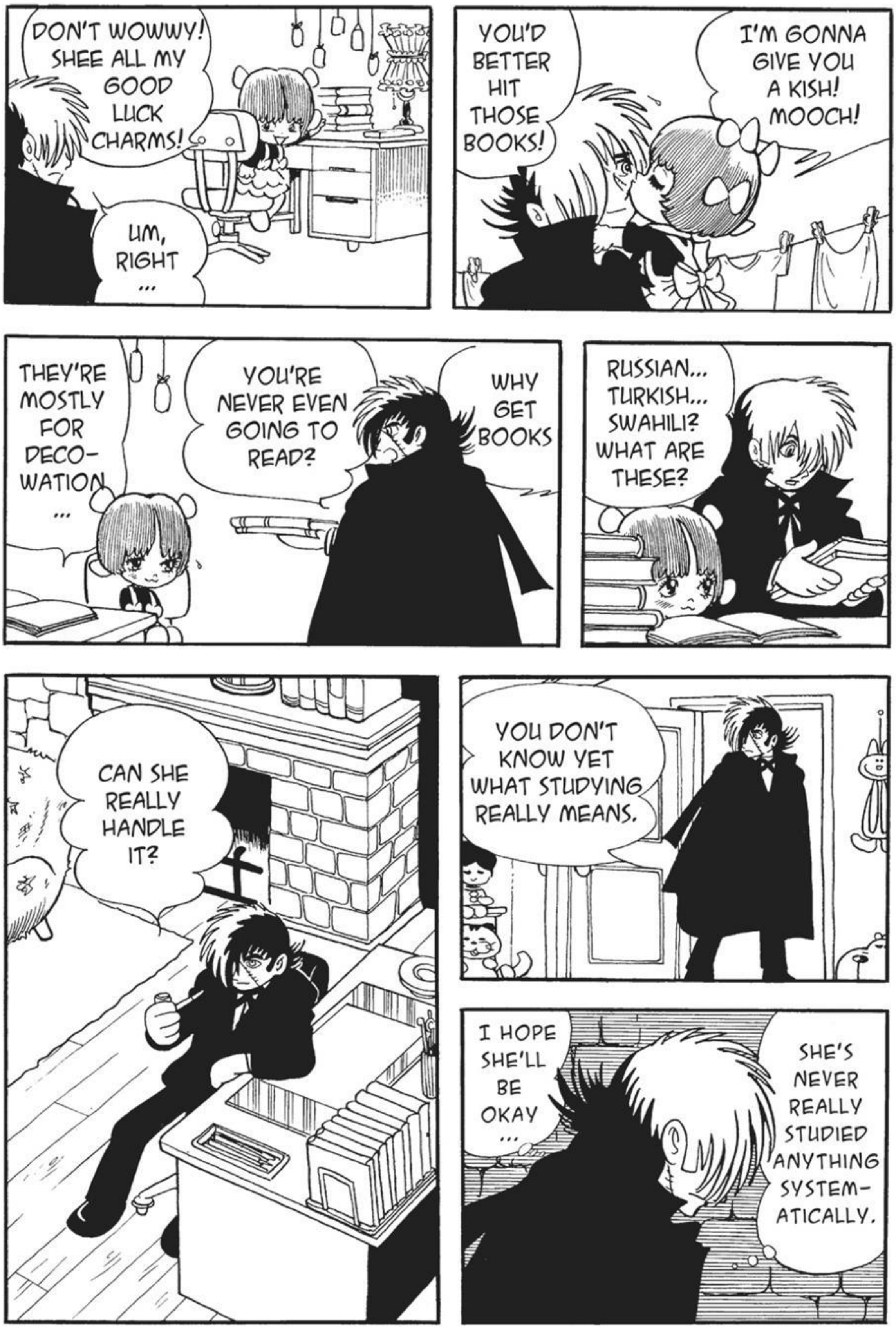

PINOKO?
PINOKO, WHAT'S WRONG?
I CAN TELL YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY...
ARE YOU SICK?
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO BUY?
I WANNA GO TO SCHOOL!
BUT WHEN I TOOK YOU TO KINDERGARTEN, YOU RAN AWAY!

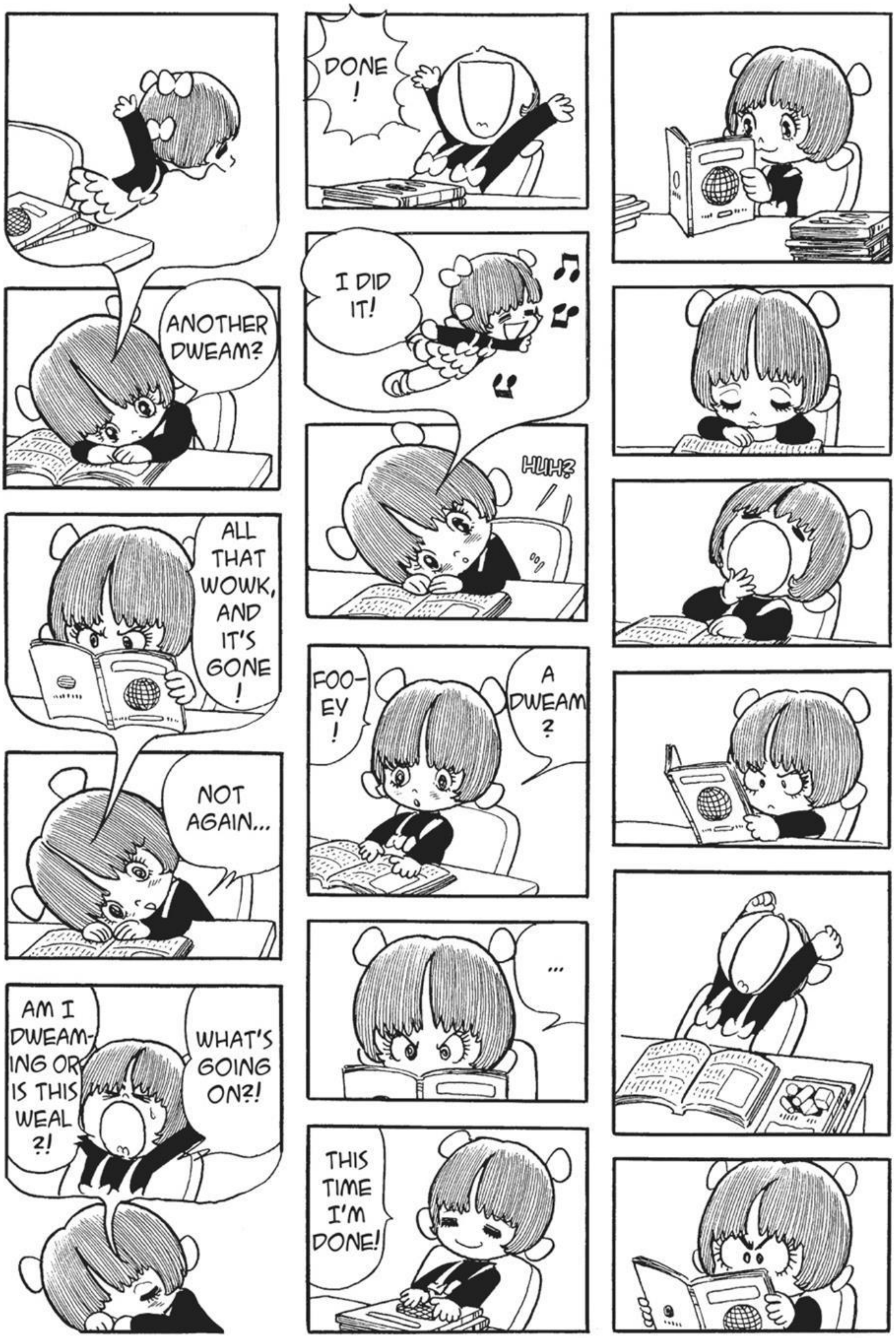

PINOKO'S NINETEEN!! WAAAAH!
OKAY, OKAY.
WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL?
HIGH SCHOOL... OR WOMEN'S COLLEGE.
A SCHOOL FOR BWIDES WOULD DO.
LISTEN, PINOKO... YOU'RE NOT READY FOR SCHOOL YET!
YOU CAN LEARN A LOT AT HOME BY READING BOOKS AND WATCHING TV! A LOT MORE!
NO!
IF I'VE TOLD YOU ONCE, I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES!
YOU DON'T NEED TO GO TO SCHOOL!
SLAP
PINOKO'S DIPLOMA FROM COWWESHPONDENCE SCHOOL.
WEAD IT!
WHEN DID YOU GET THIS?
IT WAS A SHECRET.
AREN'T I GOOD?

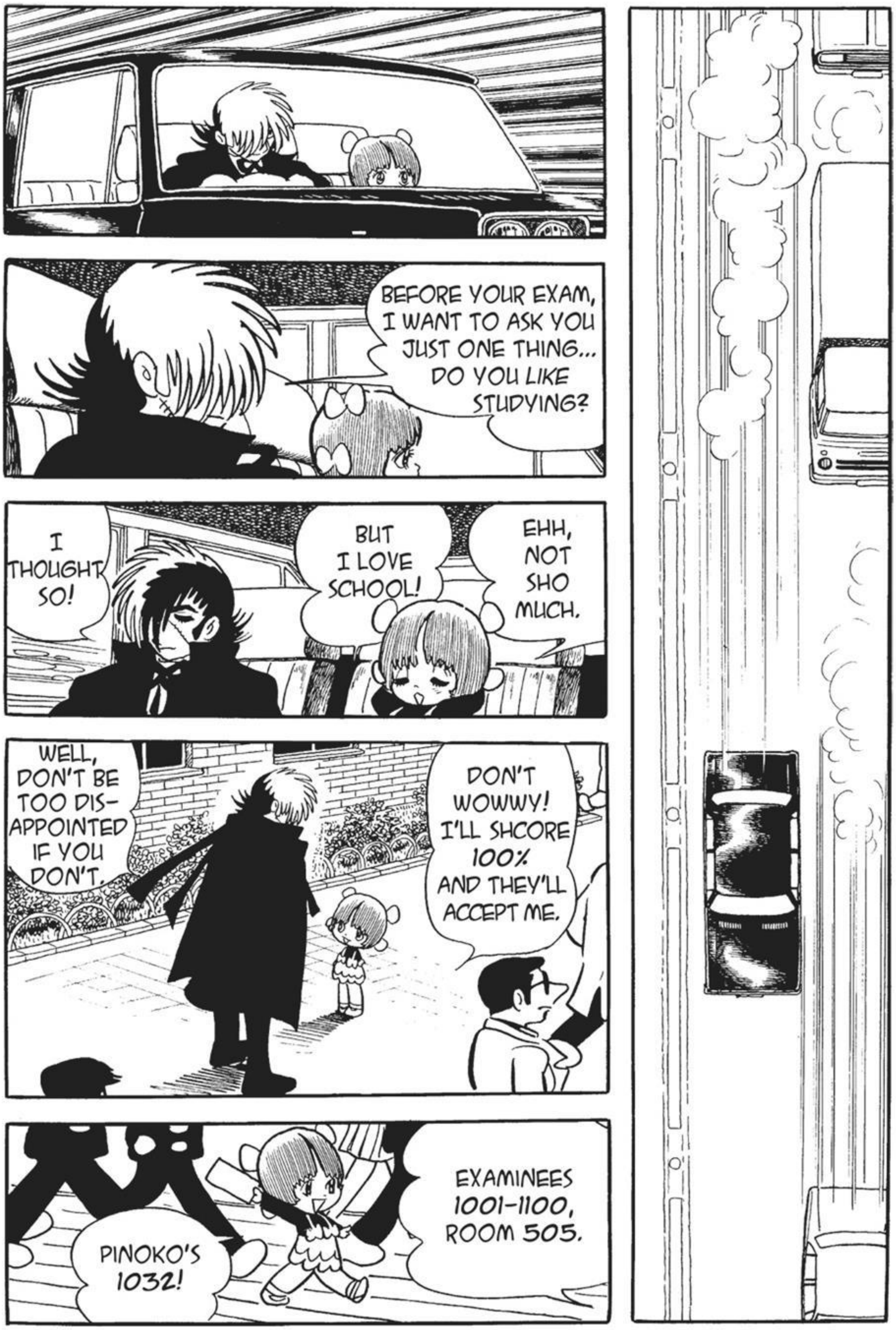

GOOD WORK, BUT THIS ISN'T THE SAME AS SCHOOL.
CORRESPONDENCE COURSES ARE SOMETHING ELSE.
WAAAAAH!
BOO HOO! BOO HOO HOO! BOO HOO HOO HOO HOO HOO! *RETCH*
I WANTED TO BECOME A WOMAN DOCTOR SHO I COULD HELP YOU.
I WANNA BE AN UNLISHENSHED DOCTOR, TOO.
A WORD TOO MANY.

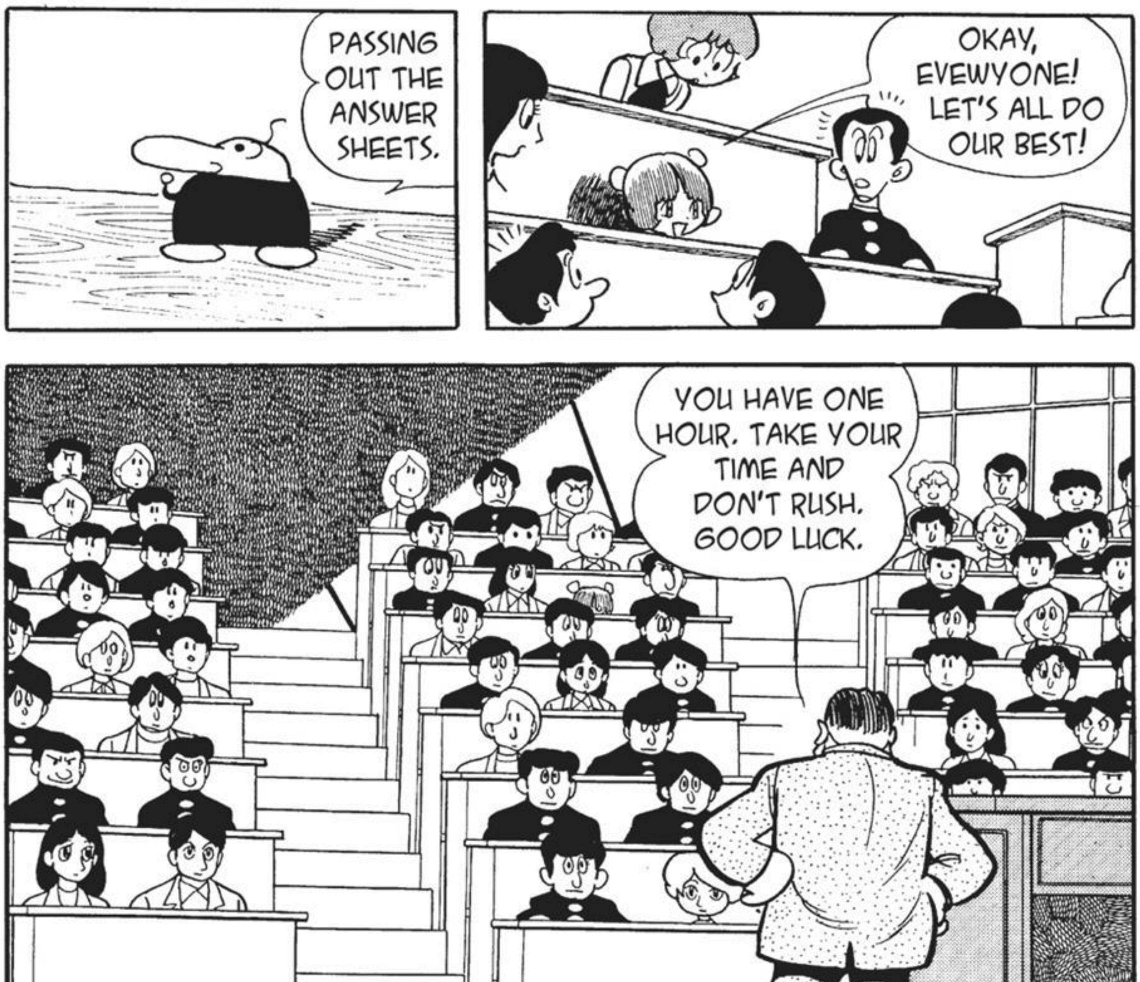

IN OTHER WORDS, PINOKO SPENT EIGHTEEN YEARS IN HER SISTER'S BODY.
IF YOU LOOK AT IT THAT WAY, SHE'S NINETEEN YEARS OLD.
WHAT A TROUBLESOME CASE.
BUT SHE'S ONE ACCORDING TO HER BIRTH CERTIFICATE. NO DEAL.
WHY NOT START HER IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?
I'M ASKING YOU TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION.
WHUMP
WHAT'S THIS NOW?
YOU THINK I'LL ACCEPT THIS?
OF COURSE NOT. I DIDN'T REALLY EXPECT A BRIBE TO WORK ...
WELL ...
WE DON'T NEED THIS, DO WE?
MIGHT AS WELL BURN IT.

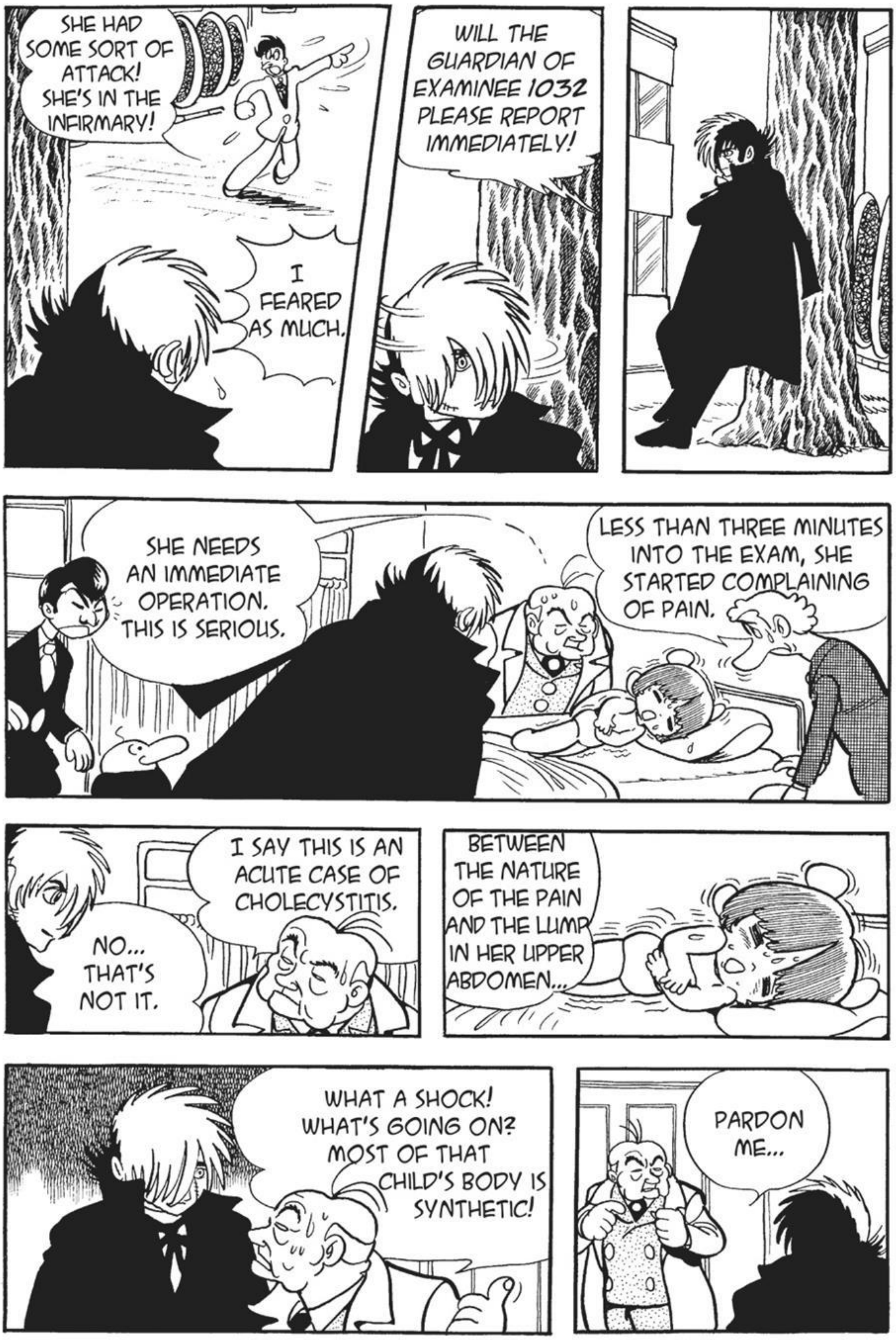

YIKES, WHAT A WASTE. I'LL TAKE IT!
PINOKO, YOUR ENTRANCE EXAM'S ON THE 28TH.
WHAT ??
!
?
YIPPEE!
I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU SHO MUCH!
SETTLE DOWN! YOU STILL HAVE TO PASS THE TEST.

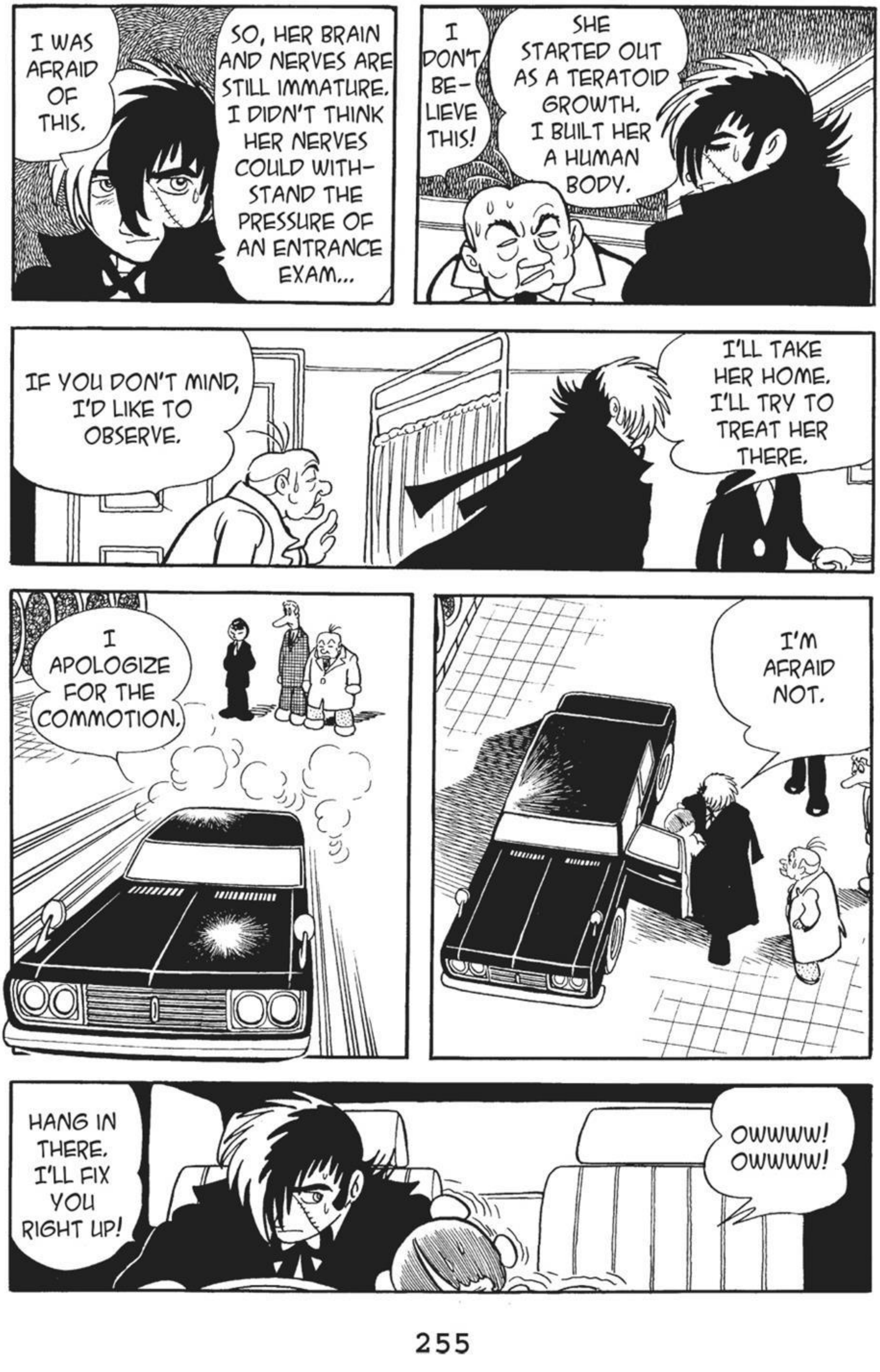

I'M GONNA GIVE YOU A KISH! MOOCH!
YOU'D BETTER HIT THOSE BOOKS!
DON'T WOWWY! SHEE ALL MY GOOD LUCK CHARMS!
UM, RIGHT ...
RUSSIAN... TURKISH... SWAHILI? WHAT ARE THESE?
WHY GET BOOKS
YOU'RE NEVER EVEN GOING TO READ?
THEY'RE MOSTLY FOR DECO- WATION ...
YOU DON'T KNOW YET WHAT STUDYING REALLY MEANS.
SHE'S NEVER REALLY STUDIED ANYTHING SYSTEM- ATICALLY.
I HOPE SHE'LL BE OKAY ...
CAN SHE REALLY HANDLE IT?

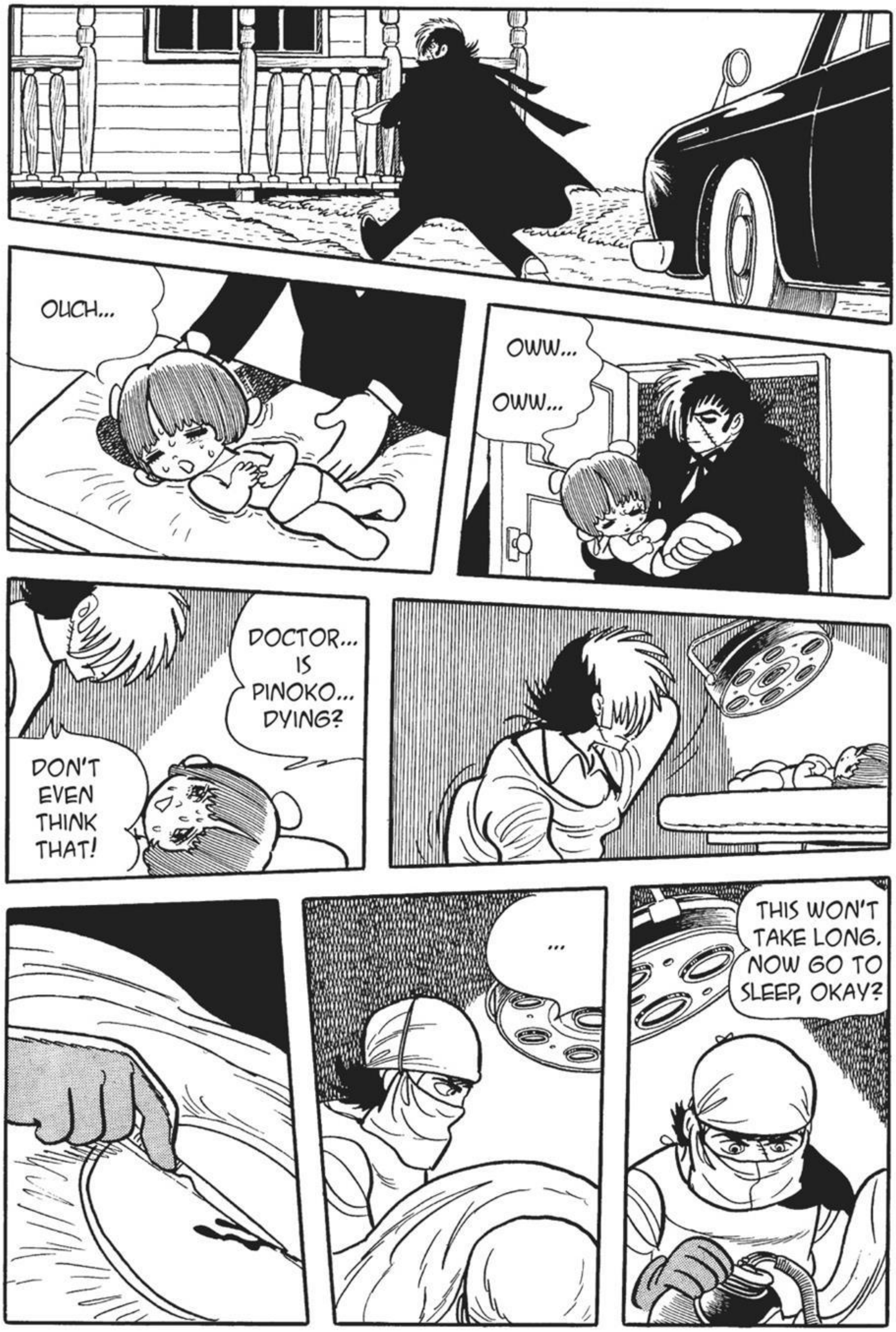

DONE!
I DID IT!
HUH?
A DWEAM?
FOO-EY!
...
THIS TIME I'M DONE!
ANOTHER DWEAM?
ALL THAT WOWK, AND IT'S GONE!
NOT AGAIN...
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
AM I DWEAMING OR IS THIS WEAL?!

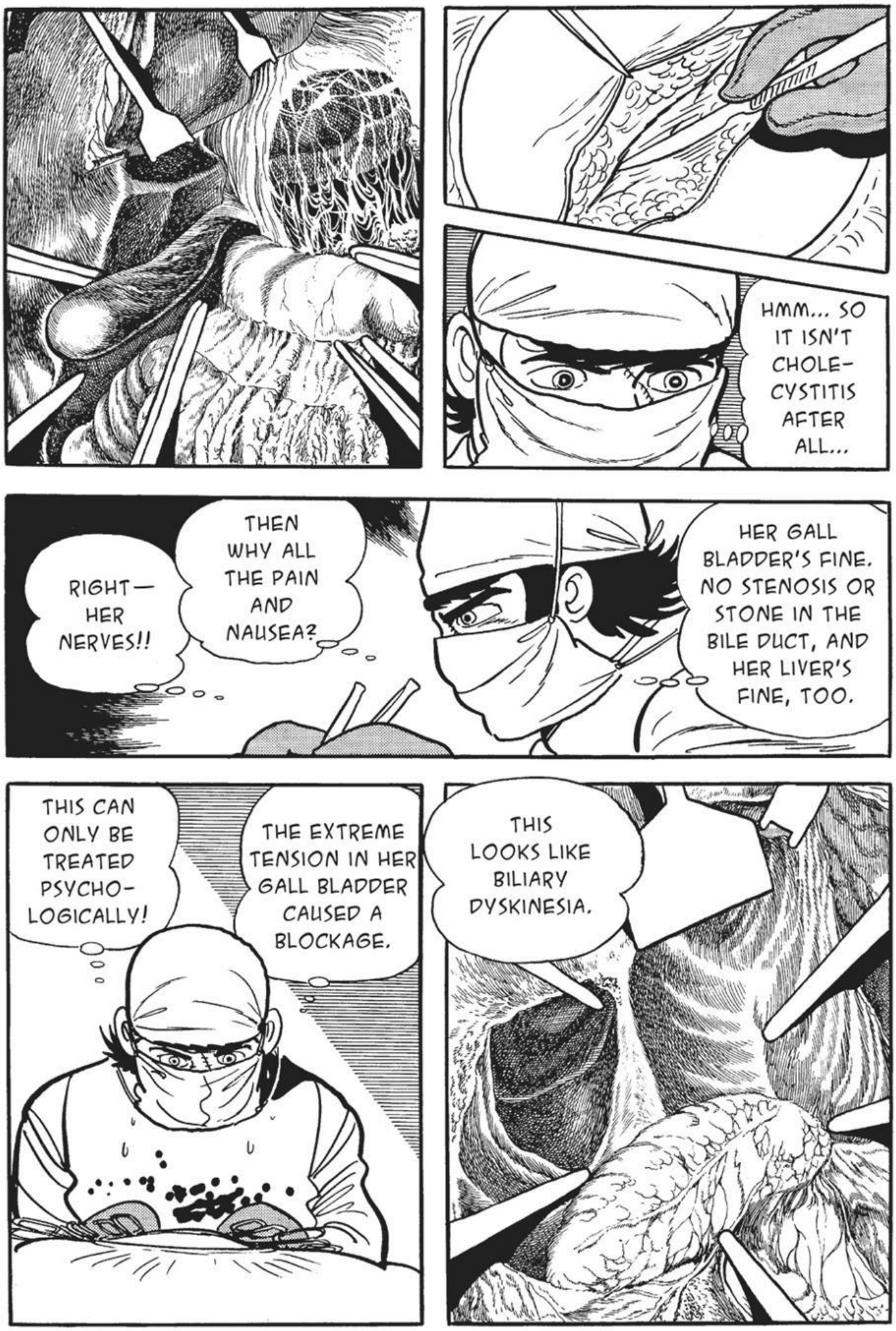

BEFORE YOUR EXAM, I WANT TO ASK YOU JUST ONE THING... DO YOU LIKE STUDYING?
EHH, NOT SHO MUCH.
BUT I LOVE SCHOOL!
I THOUGHT SO!
DON'T WOWWY! I'LL SHCORE 100% AND THEY'LL ACCEPT ME.
WELL, DON'T BE TOO DIS-APPOINTED IF YOU DON'T.
EXAMINEES 1001–1100, ROOM 505.
PINOKO'S 1032!

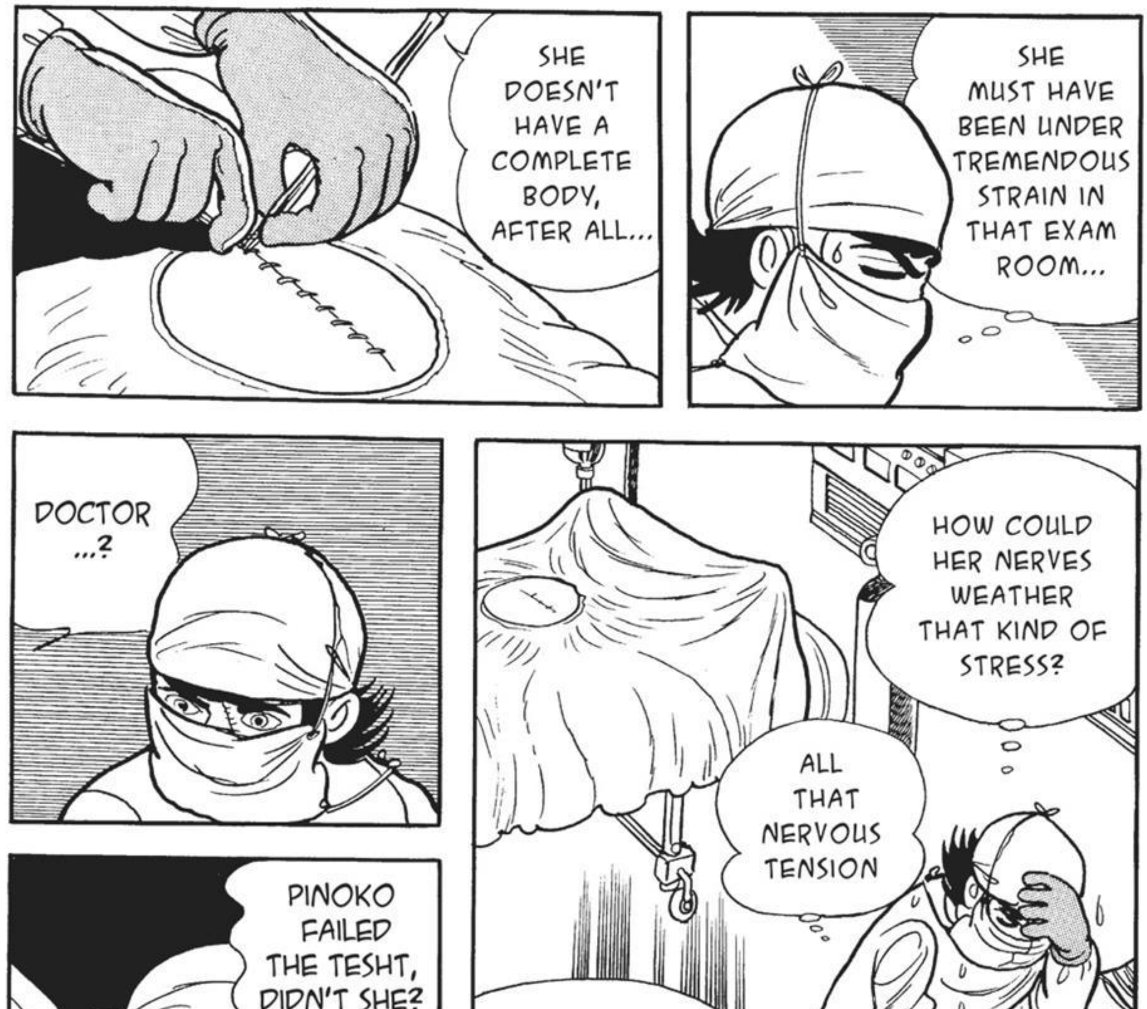

PASSING OUT THE ANSWER SHEETS.
OKAY, EVEWYONE! LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST!
YOU HAVE ONE HOUR. TAKE YOUR TIME AND DON'T RUSH. GOOD LUCK.
BEGIN!
YOU THERE! DON'T LOOK AROUND!

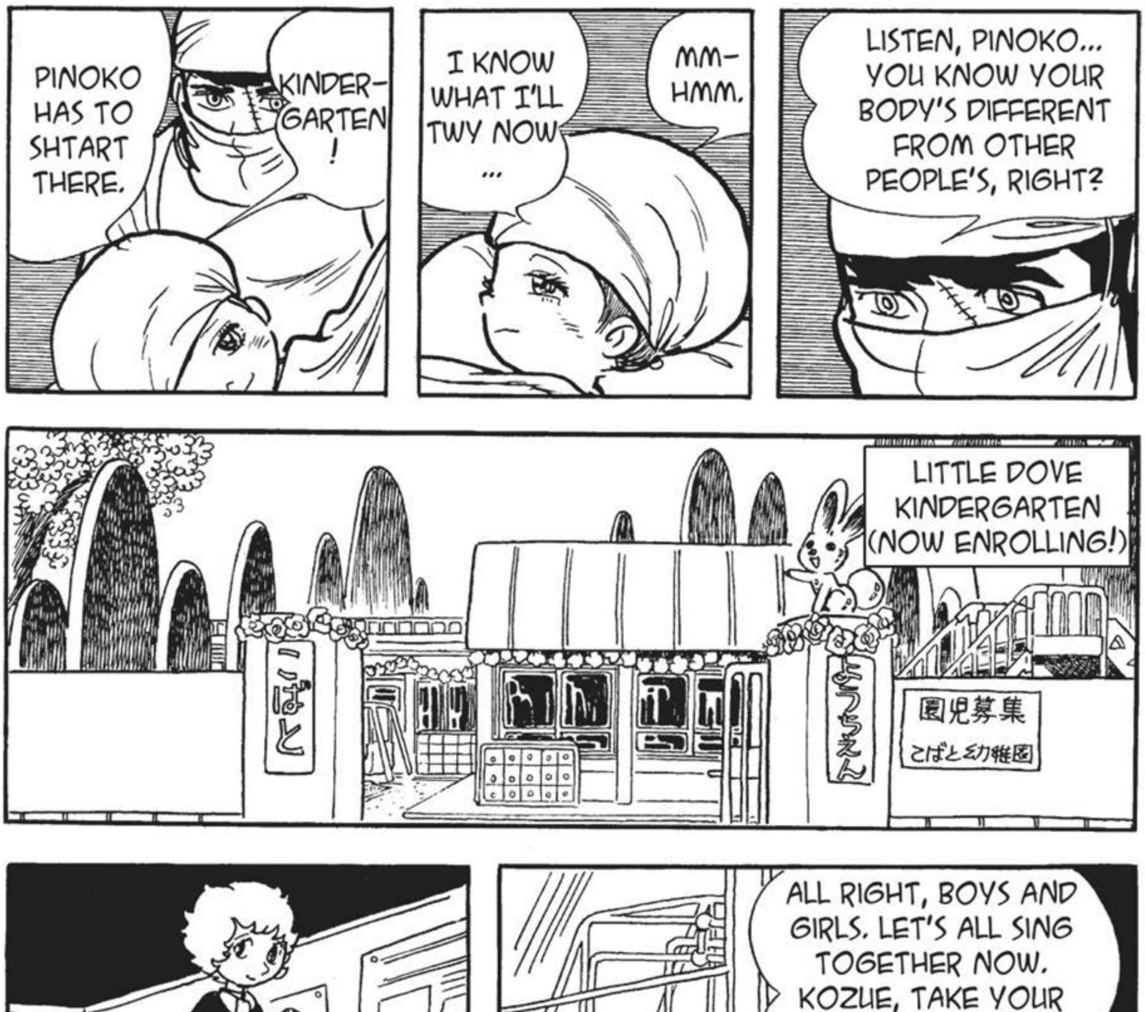

SHE HAD SOME SORT OF ATTACK! SHE'S IN THE INFIRMARY!
I FEARED AS MUCH.
WILL THE GUARDIAN OF EXAMINEE 1032 PLEASE REPORT IMMEDIATELY!
SHE NEEDS AN IMMEDIATE OPERATION. THIS IS SERIOUS.
LESS THAN THREE MINUTES INTO THE EXAM, SHE STARTED COMPLAINING OF PAIN.
I SAY THIS IS AN ACUTE CASE OF CHOLECYSTITIS.
NO... THAT'S NOT IT.
BETWEEN THE NATURE OF THE PAIN AND THE LUMP IN HER UPPER ABDOMEN...
WHAT A SHOCK! WHAT'S GOING ON? MOST OF THAT CHILD'S BODY IS SYNTHETIC!
PARDON ME...

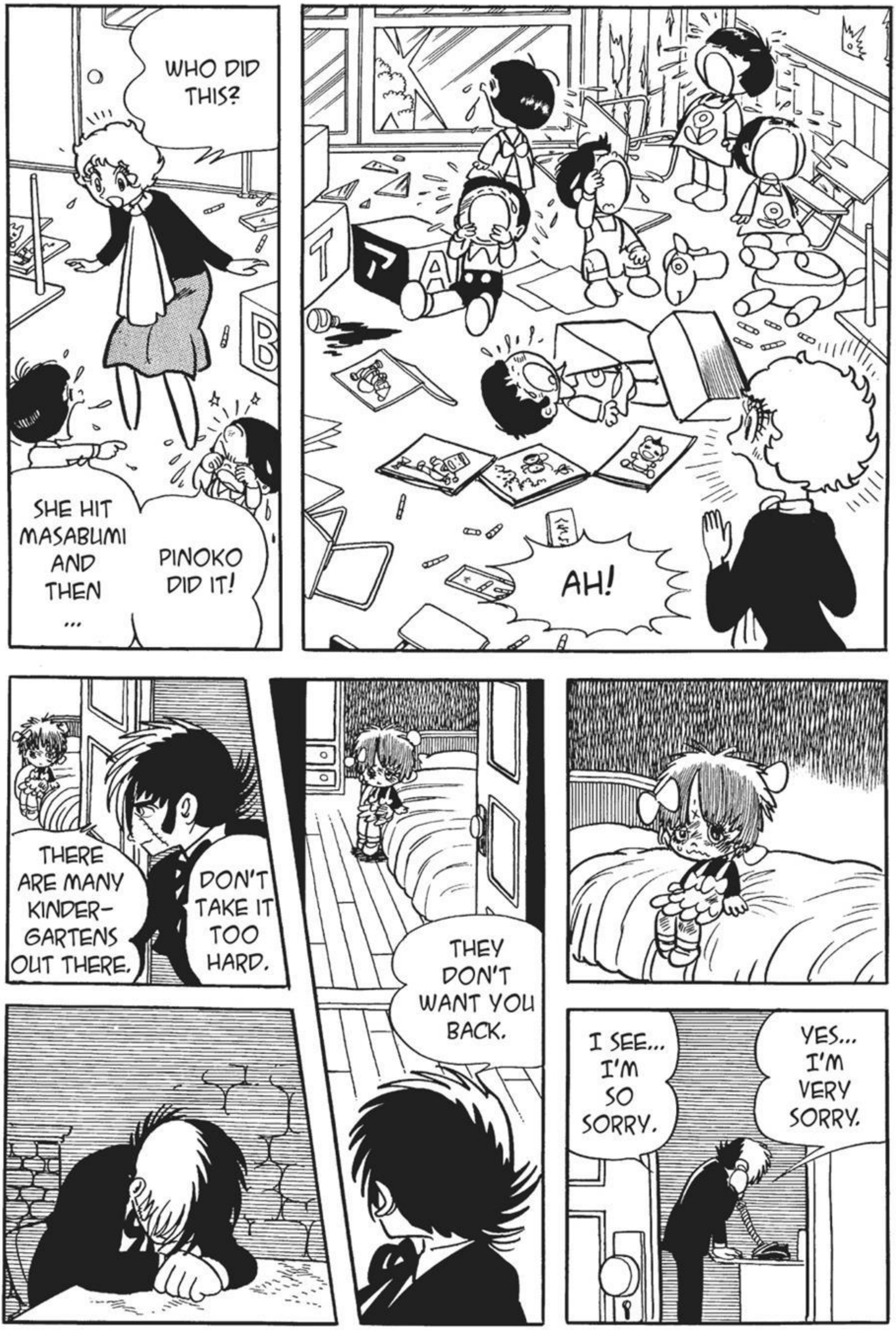

I WAS AFRAID OF THIS.
SO, HER BRAIN AND NERVES ARE STILL IMMATURE. I DIDN'T THINK HER NERVES COULD WITHSTAND THE PRESSURE OF AN ENTRANCE EXAM...
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
SHE STARTED OUT AS A TERATOID GROWTH. I BUILT HER A HUMAN BODY.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO OBSERVE.
I'LL TAKE HER HOME. I'LL TRY TO TREAT HER THERE.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE COMMOTION.
I'M AFRAID NOT.
HANG IN THERE. I'LL FIX YOU RIGHT UP!
OWWWW! OWWWW!


OUCH...
OWW...
OWW...
DOCTOR... IS PINOKO... DYING?
DON'T EVEN THINK THAT!
...
THIS WON'T TAKE LONG. NOW GO TO SLEEP, OKAY?

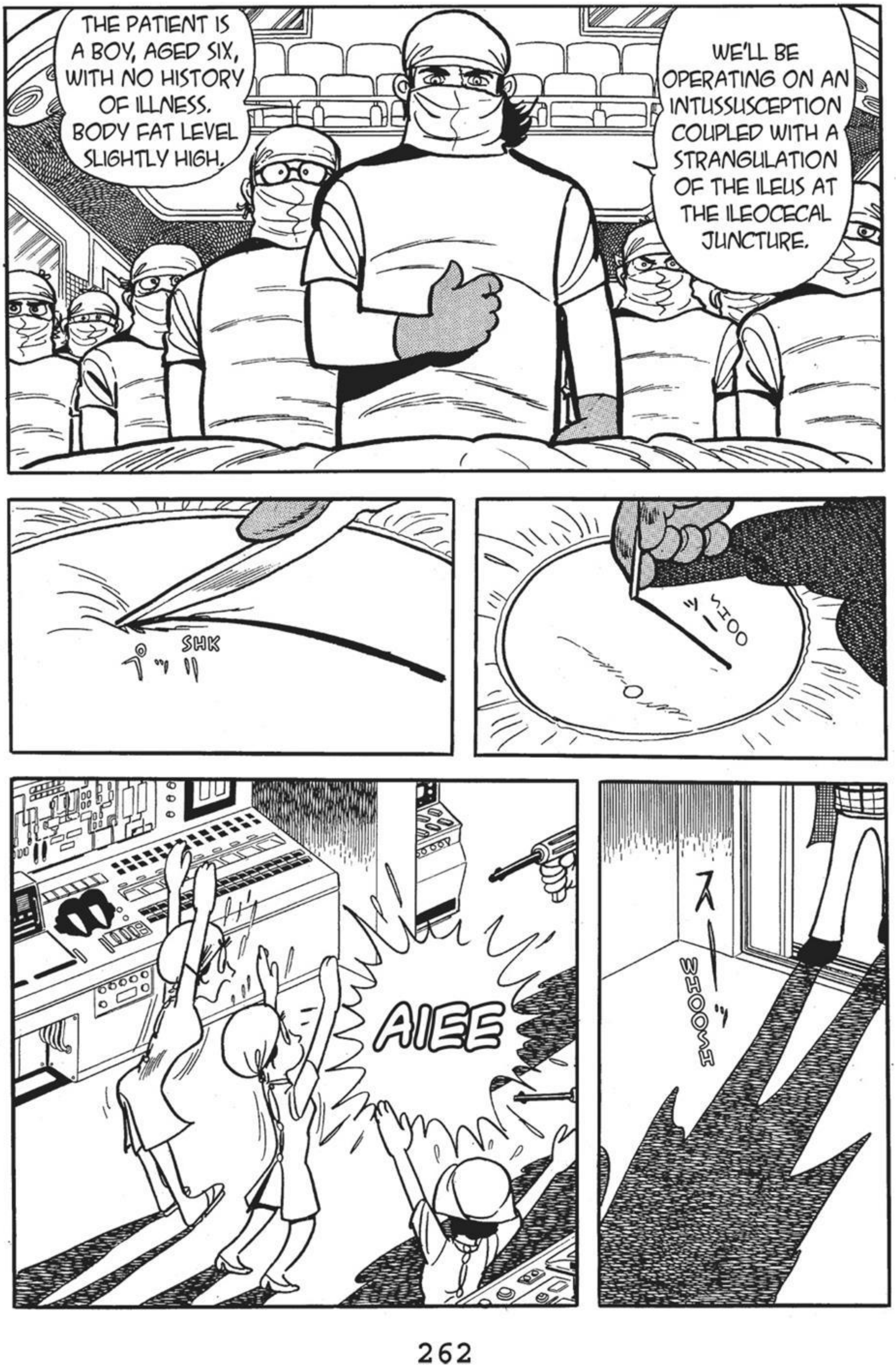

HMM... SO IT ISN'T CHOLECYSTITIS AFTER ALL...
HER GALL BLADDER'S FINE. NO STENOSIS OR STONE IN THE BILE DUCT, AND HER LIVER'S FINE, TOO.
THEN WHY ALL THE PAIN AND NAUSEA?
RIGHT—HER NERVES!!
THIS LOOKS LIKE BILIARY DYSKINESIA.
THE EXTREME TENSION IN HER GALL BLADDER CAUSED A BLOCKAGE.
THIS CAN ONLY BE TREATED PSYCHOLOGICALLY!

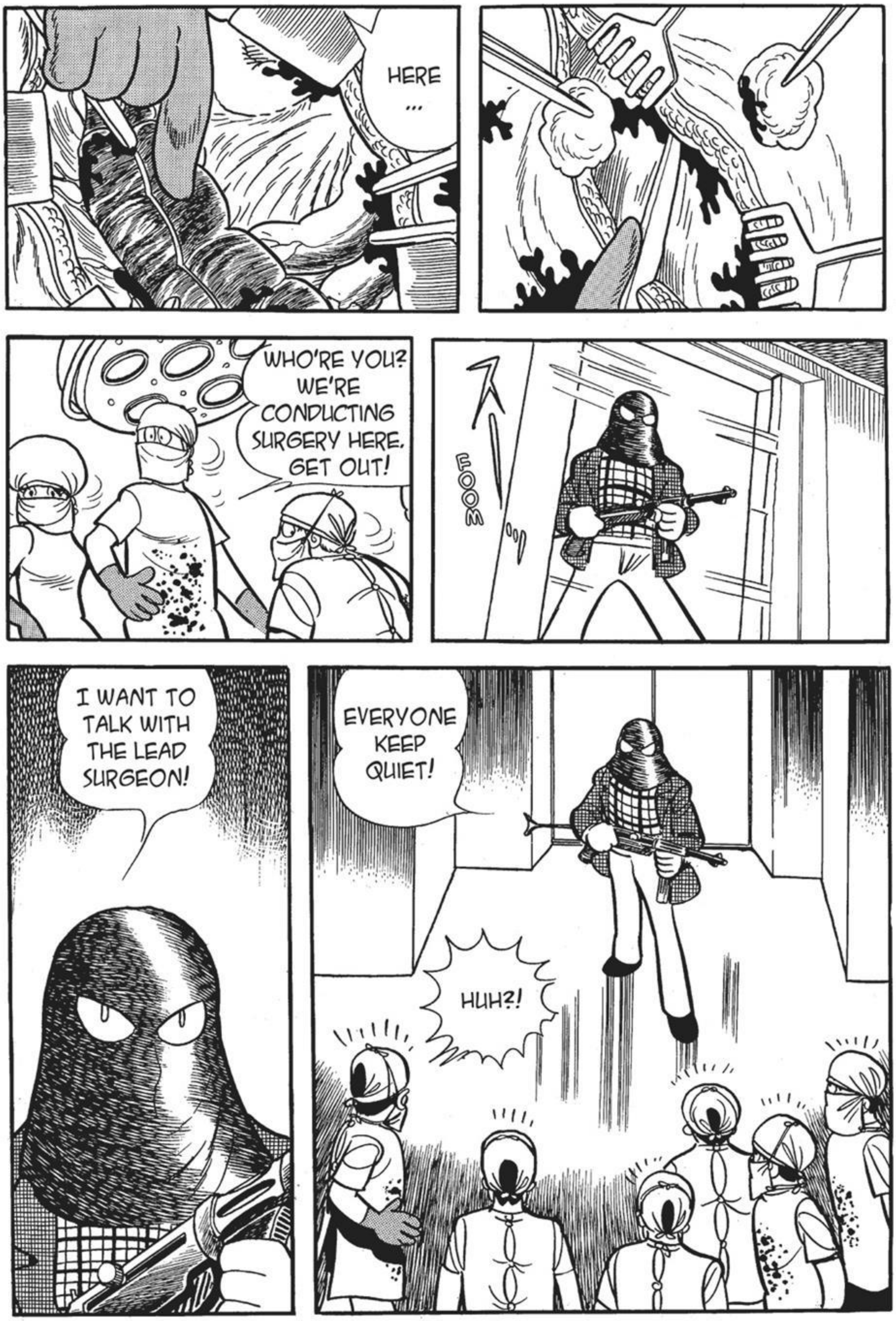

SHE DOESN'T HAVE A COMPLETE BODY, AFTER ALL...
SHE MUST HAVE BEEN UNDER TREMENDOUS STRAIN IN THAT EXAM ROOM...
DOCTOR ...?
PINOKO FAILED THE TESHT, DIDN'T SHE?
HOW COULD HER NERVES WEATHER THAT KIND OF STRESS?
ALL THAT NERVOUS TENSION
OVERWHELMED HER LITTLE BODY. SCHOOL IS OUT OF THE QUESTION...
PINOKO'S ALL BETTER. I WANT TO TWY AGAIN.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. JUST SLEEP.

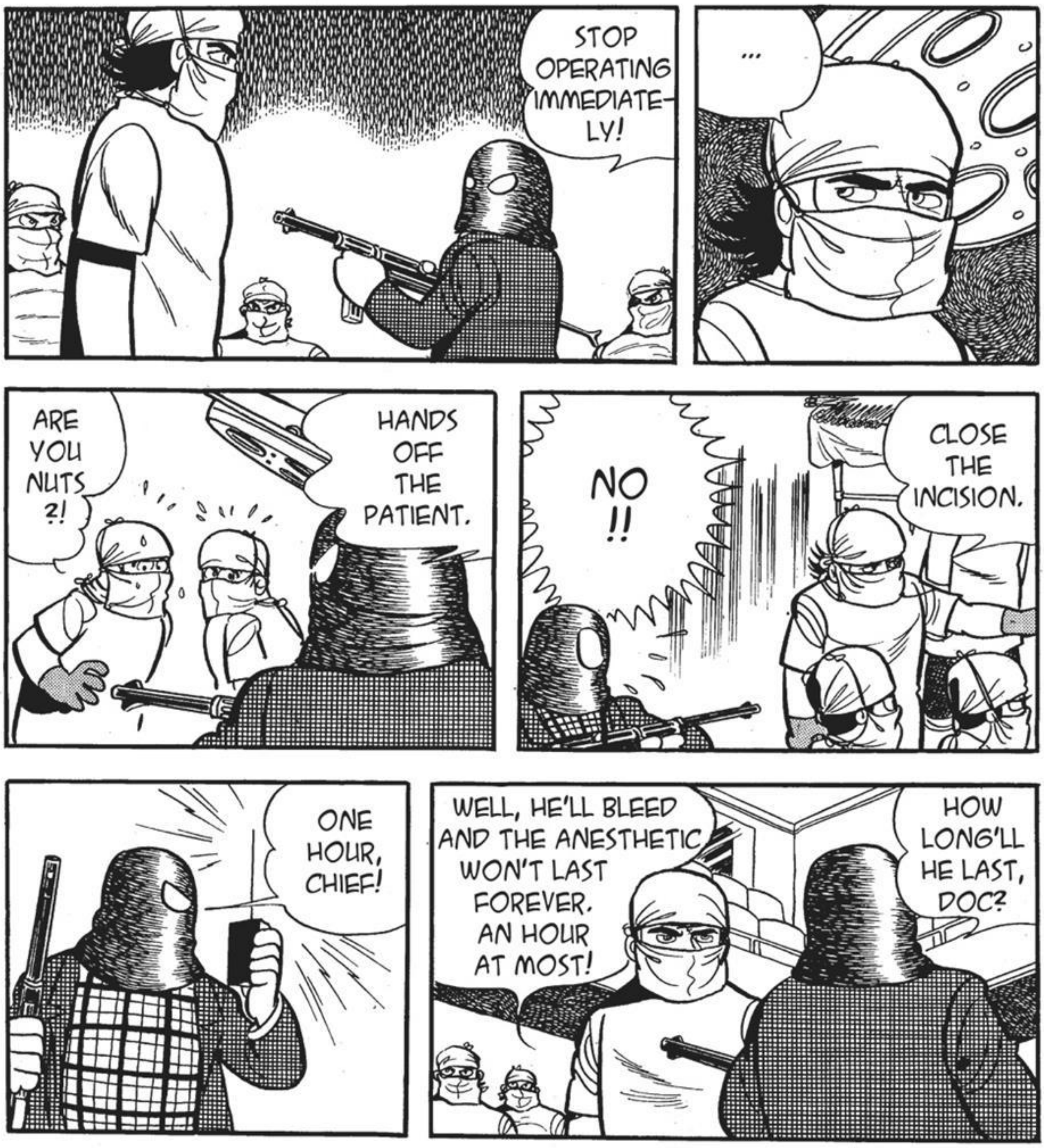

PINOKO HAS TO SHTART THERE.
KINDERGARTEN!
I KNOW WHAT I'LL TWY NOW...
MM-HMM.
LISTEN, PINOKO... YOU KNOW YOUR BODY'S DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PEOPLE'S, RIGHT?
LITTLE DOVE KINDERGARTEN (NOW ENROLLING!)
こばと
ようちえん
園児募集
こばと幼稚園
ALL RIGHT, BOYS AND GIRLS. LET'S ALL SING TOGETHER NOW. KOZUE, TAKE YOUR THUMB OUT OF YOUR MOUTH. PINOKO, LOOK OVER HERE.
HERE WE GO!
DASH

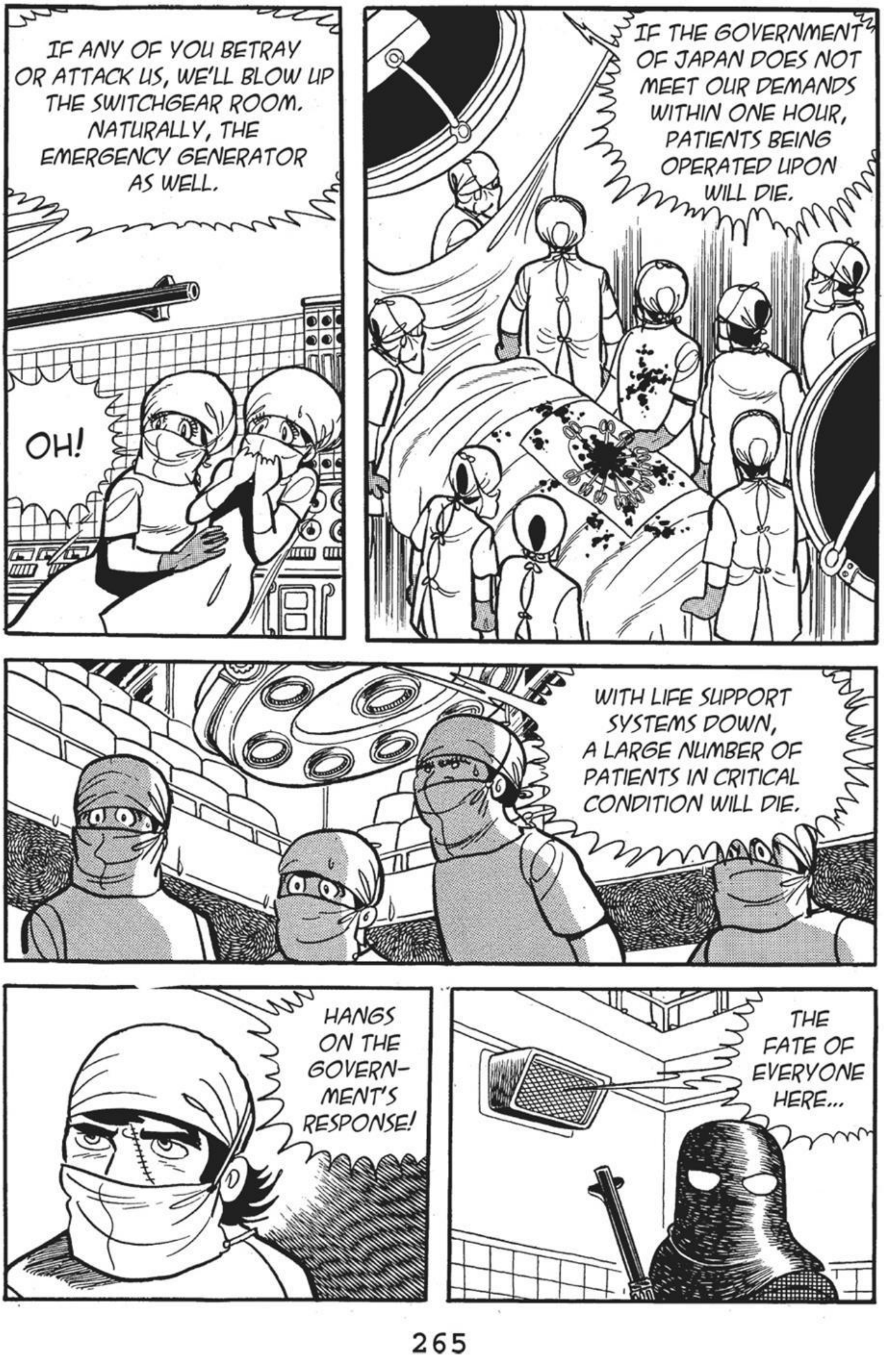

WHO DID THIS?
PINOKO DID IT!
SHE HIT MASABUMI AND THEN ...
AH!
DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD.
THERE ARE MANY KINDER-GARTENS OUT THERE.
THEY DON'T WANT YOU BACK.
YES... I'M VERY SORRY.
I SEE... I'M SO SORRY.

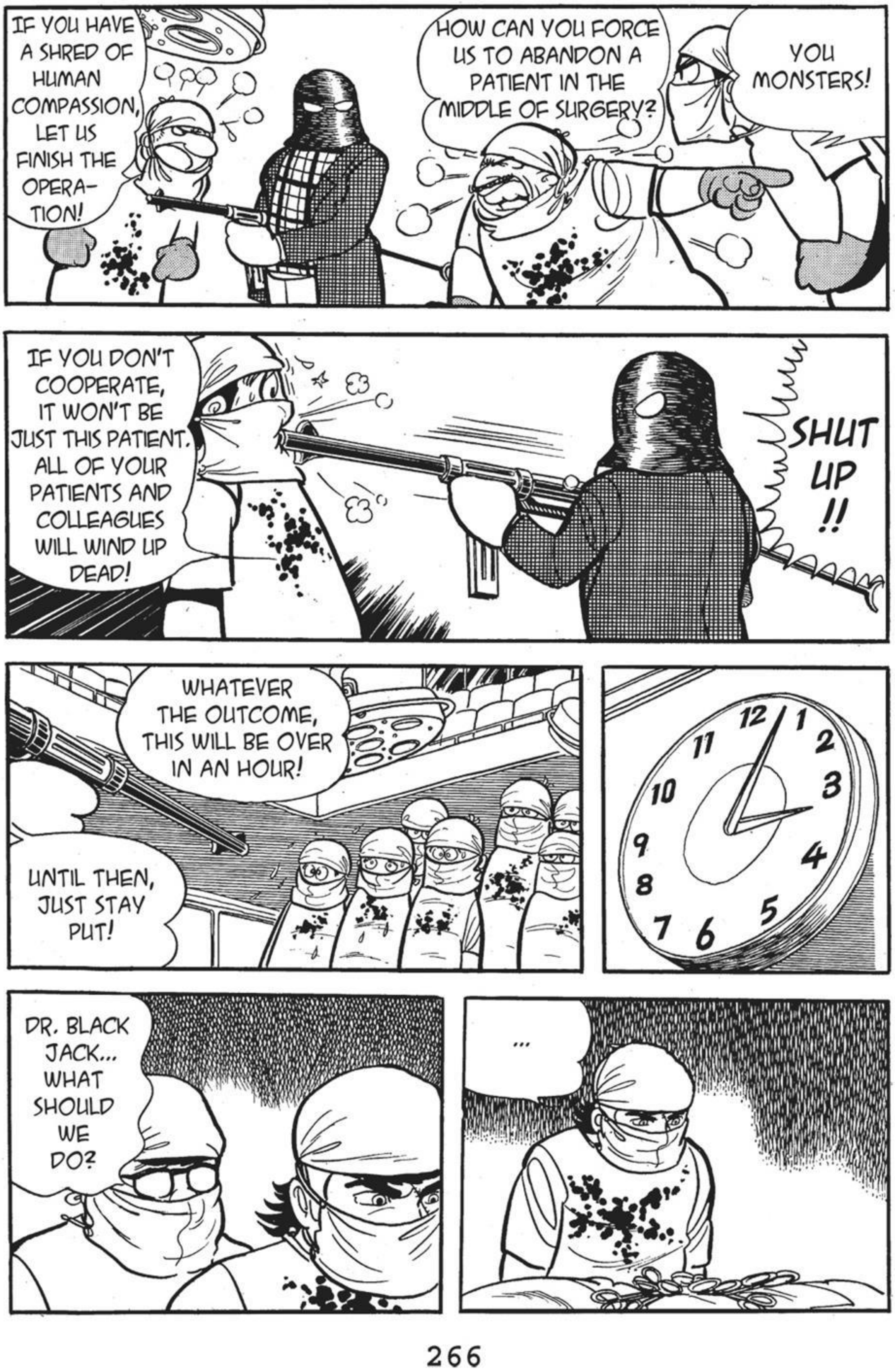
HOSPITAL JACK

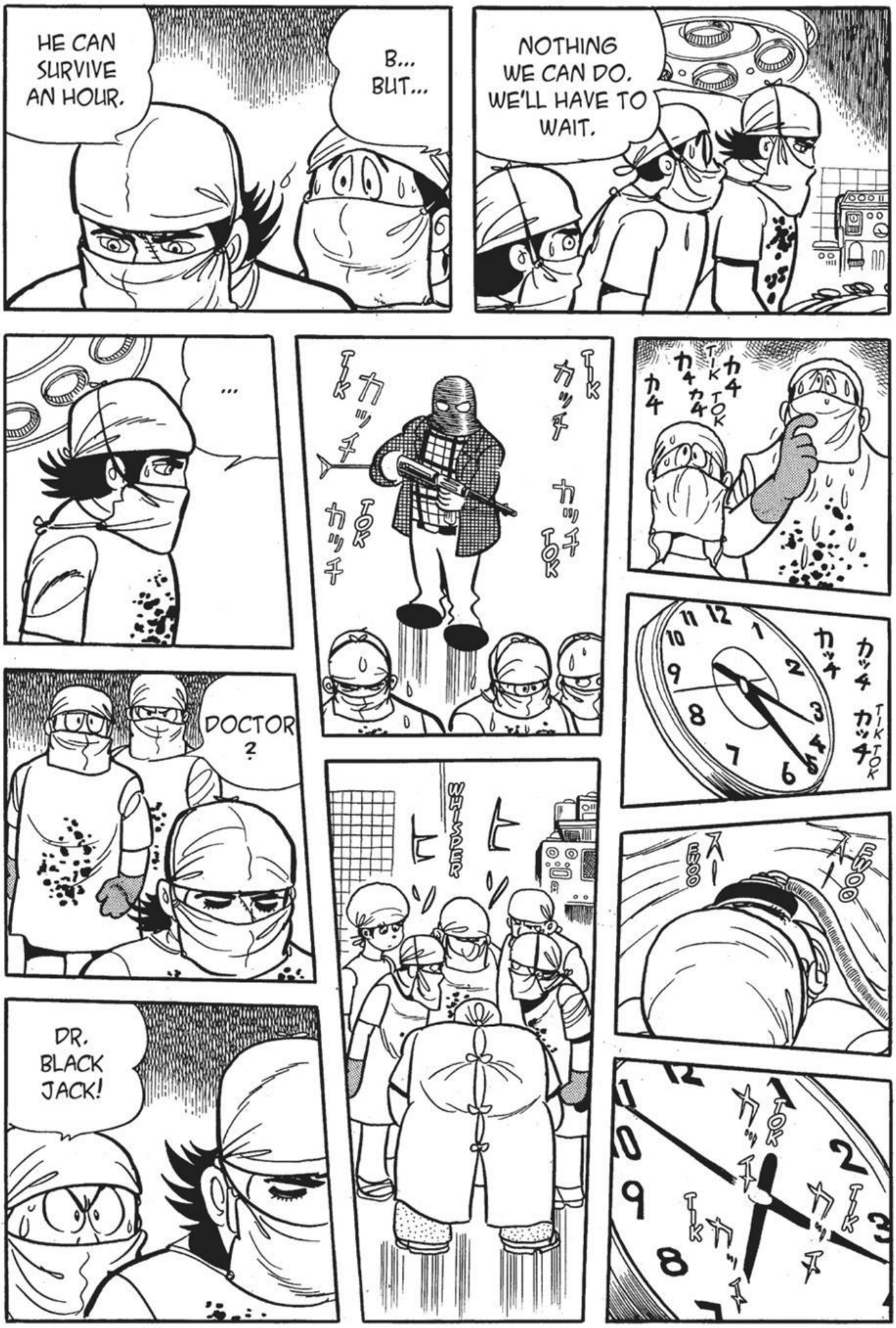

WE'LL BE OPERATING ON AN INTUSSUSCEPTION COUPLED WITH A STRANGULATION OF THE ILEUS AT THE ILEOCECAL JUNCTURE.
THE PATIENT IS A BOY, AGED SIX, WITH NO HISTORY OF ILLNESS. BODY FAT LEVEL SLIGHTLY HIGH.
ツー
OOZ
パッ
SHK
スーッ
WHOOSH
AIEE

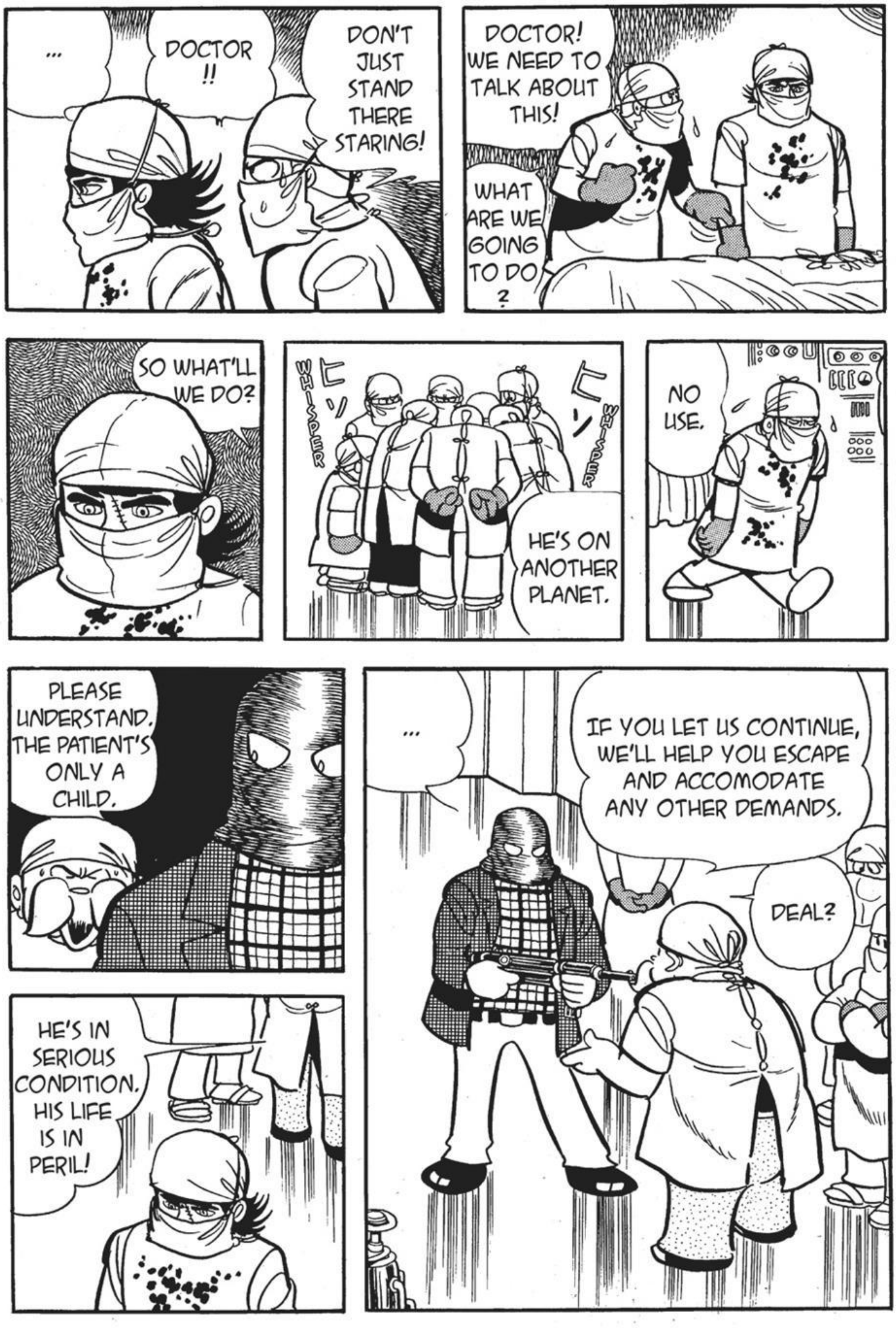

HERE ...
FOOM
WHO'RE YOU? WE'RE CONDUCTING SURGERY HERE. GET OUT!
EVERYONE KEEP QUIET!
HUH?!
I WANT TO TALK WITH THE LEAD SURGEON!

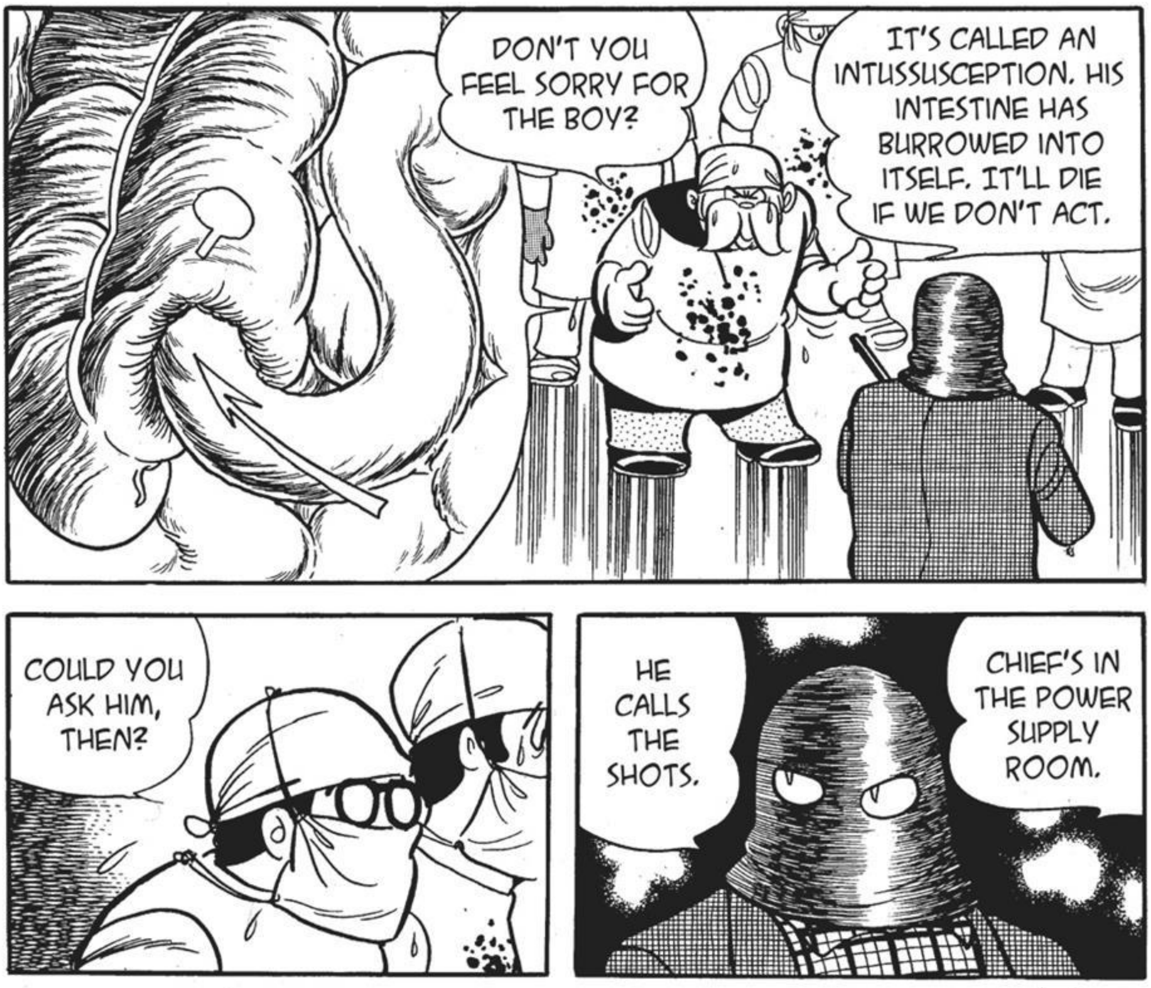

...
STOP OPERATING IMMEDIATELY!
CLOSE THE INCISION.
NO !!
HANDS OFF THE PATIENT.
ARE YOU NUTS ?!
HOW LONG'LL HE LAST, DOC?
WELL, HE'LL BLEED AND THE ANESTHETIC WON'T LAST FOREVER. AN HOUR AT MOST!
ONE HOUR, CHIEF!
LISTEN UP. WE'LL BE OCCUPYING THIS HOSPITAL!
YOU'RE OUR HOSTAGES. EVERY DOCTOR AND PATIENT WHO'S HERE.

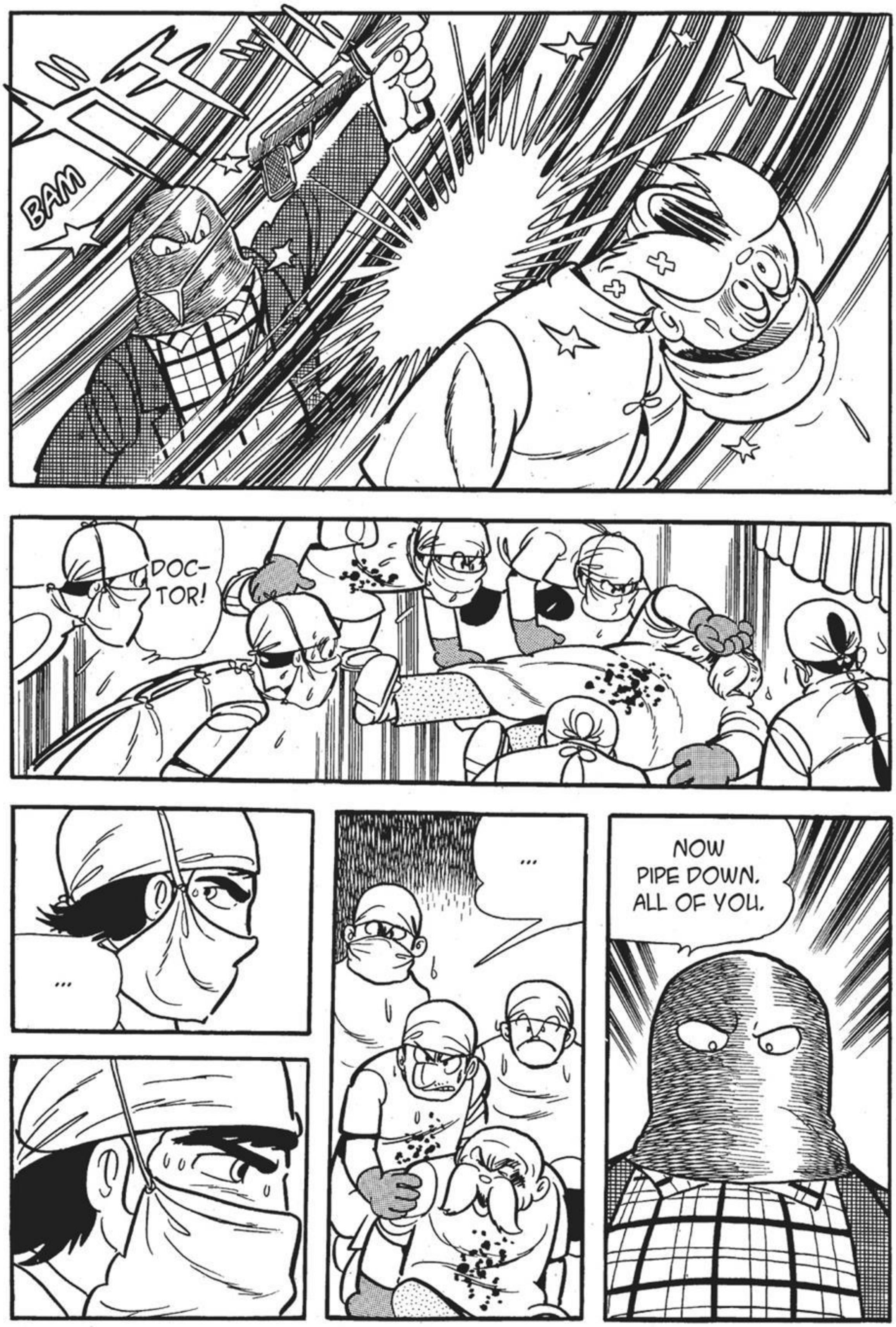

IF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN DOES NOT MEET OUR DEMANDS WITHIN ONE HOUR, PATIENTS BEING OPERATED UPON WILL DIE.
IF ANY OF YOU BETRAY OR ATTACK US, WE'LL BLOW UP THE SWITCHGEAR ROOM. NATURALLY, THE EMERGENCY GENERATOR AS WELL.
OH!
WITH LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS DOWN, A LARGE NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN CRITICAL CONDITION WILL DIE.
THE FATE OF EVERYONE HERE...
HANGS ON THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE!

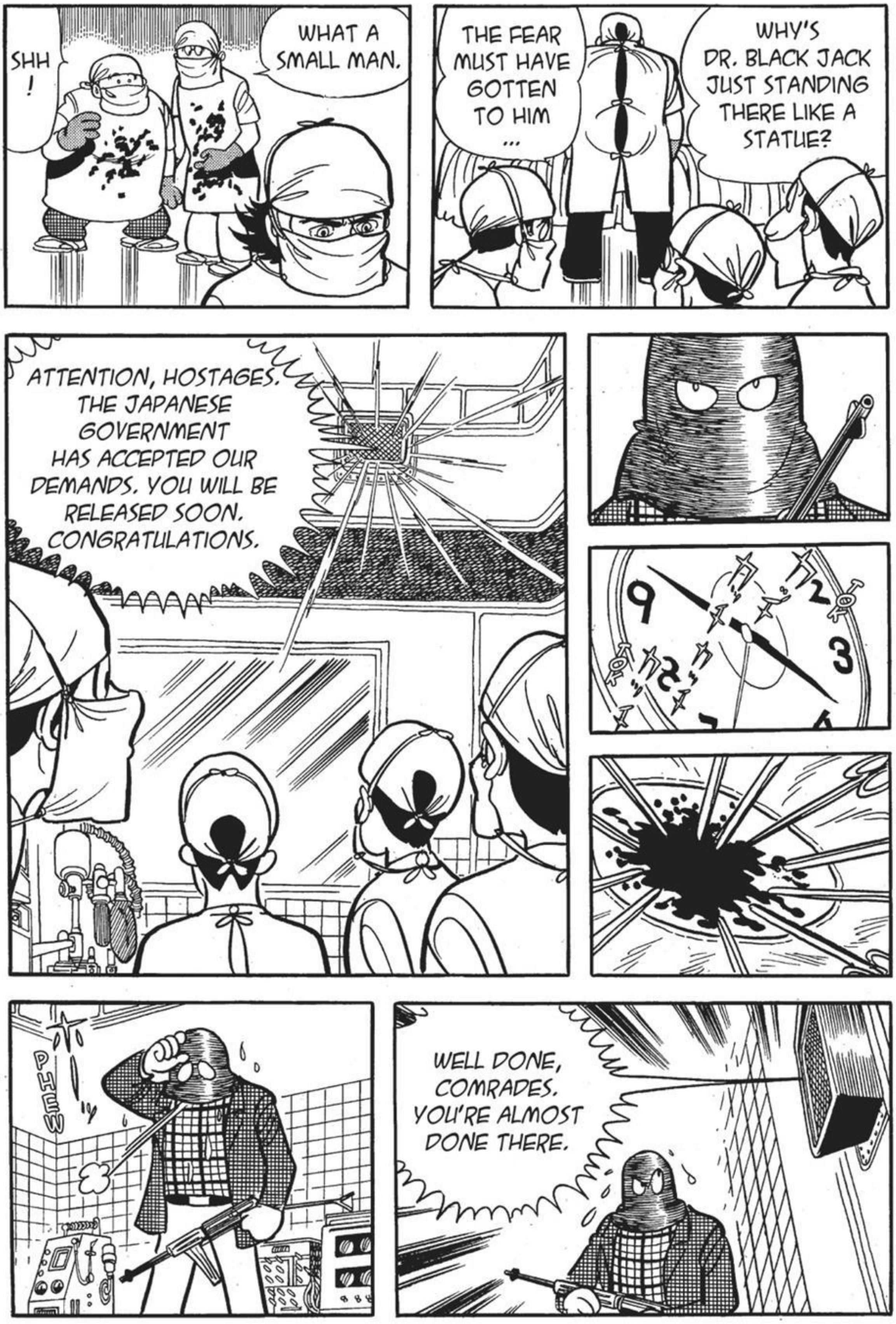

IF YOU HAVE A SHRED OF HUMAN COMPASSION, LET US FINISH THE OPERATION!
HOW CAN YOU FORCE US TO ABANDON A PATIENT IN THE MIDDLE OF SURGERY?
YOU MONSTERS!
IF YOU DON'T COOPERATE, IT WON'T BE JUST THIS PATIENT. ALL OF YOUR PATIENTS AND COLLEAGUES WILL WIND UP DEAD!
SHUT UP!!
WHATEVER THE OUTCOME, THIS WILL BE OVER IN AN HOUR!
UNTIL THEN, JUST STAY PUT!
DR. BLACK JACK... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
...

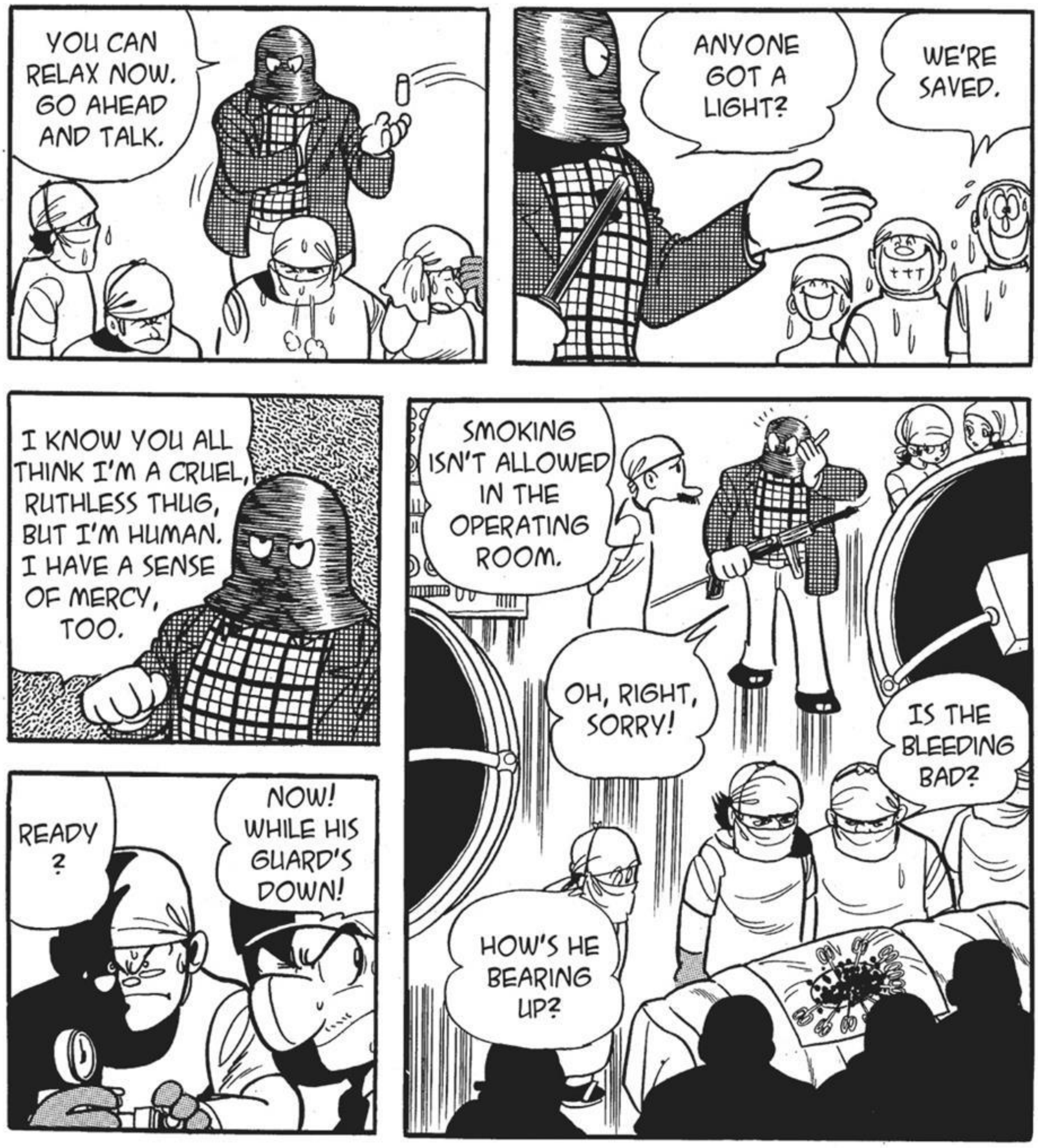

HE CAN SURVIVE AN HOUR.
B... BUT...
NOTHING WE CAN DO. WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT.
...
TIK カッチ
TOK カッチ
TIK TOK カチ カチ
DOCTOR?
カッチ カッチ TIK TOK
DR. BLACK JACK!
WHISPER ヒ ヒ
FWOO スー
TOK TIK カッチ

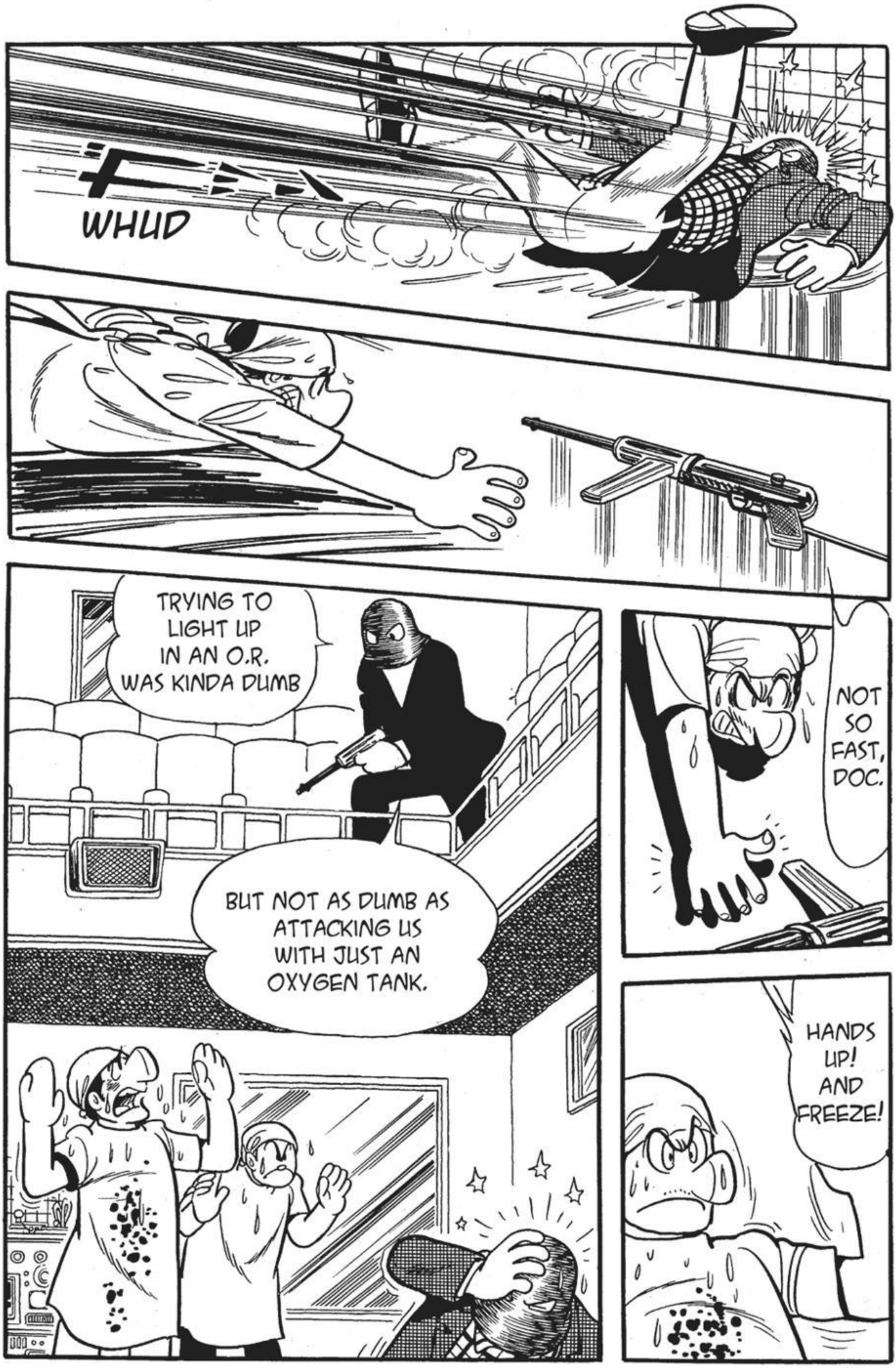

...
DOCTOR !!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE STARING!
DOCTOR! WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THIS!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ?
SO WHAT'LL WE DO?
ヒソ
WHISPER
ヒソ
WHISPER
HE'S ON ANOTHER PLANET.
NO USE.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND. THE PATIENT'S ONLY A CHILD.
HE'S IN SERIOUS CONDITION. HIS LIFE IS IN PERIL!
...
IF YOU LET US CONTINUE, WE'LL HELP YOU ESCAPE AND ACCOMODATE ANY OTHER DEMANDS.
DEAL?

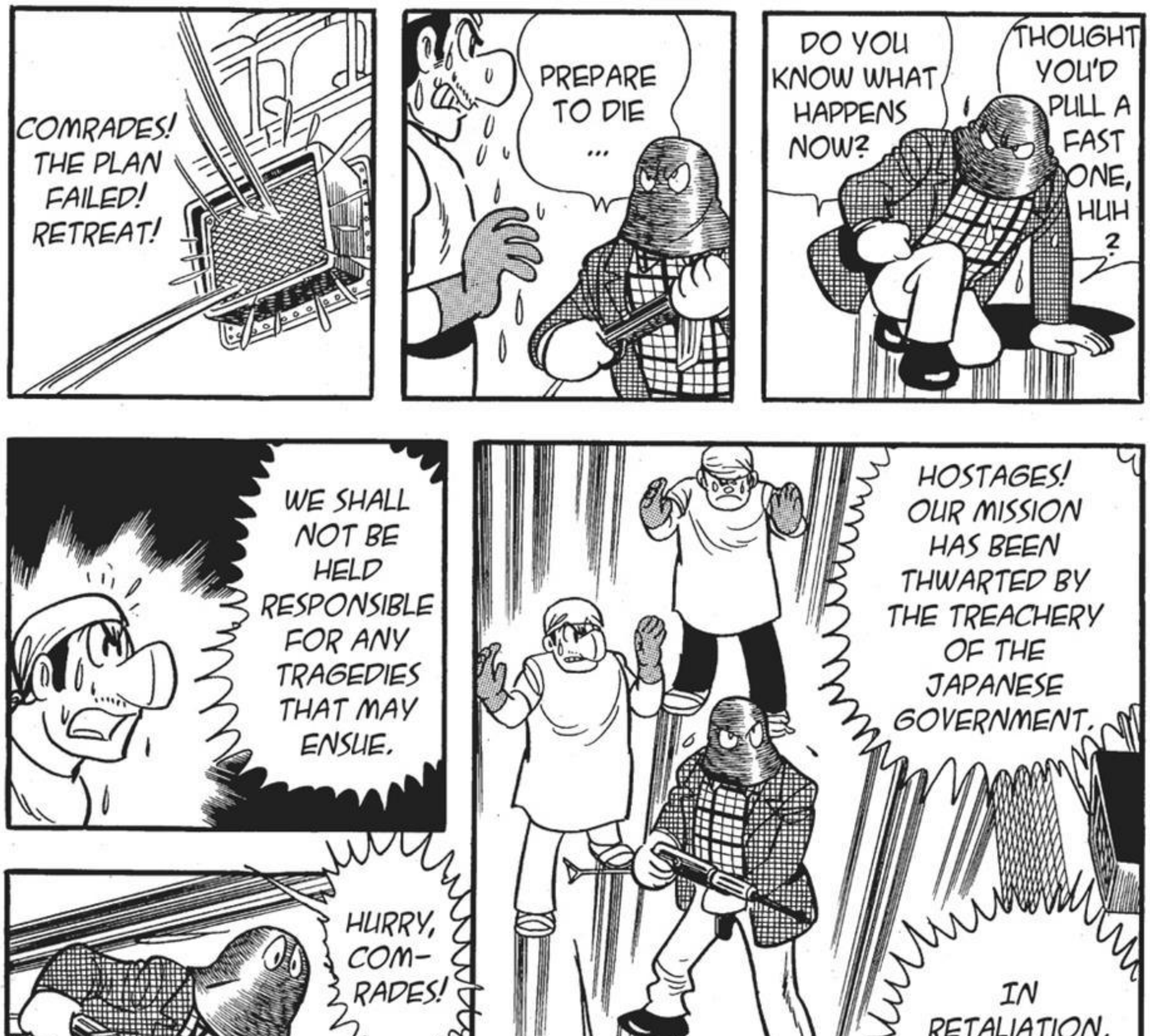

DON'T YOU FEEL SORRY FOR THE BOY?
IT'S CALLED AN INTUSSUSCEPTION. HIS INTESTINE HAS BURROWED INTO ITSELF. IT'LL DIE IF WE DON'T ACT.
COULD YOU ASK HIM, THEN?
HE CALLS THE SHOTS.
CHIEF'S IN THE POWER SUPPLY ROOM.
WHAT A... LOWLY SWINE YOU ARE!!
I'VE GOT A HOT TEMPER! IF YOU DON'T STOP YAMMERING AT ME... I MIGHT JUST LOSE IT!
SHUT UP!!

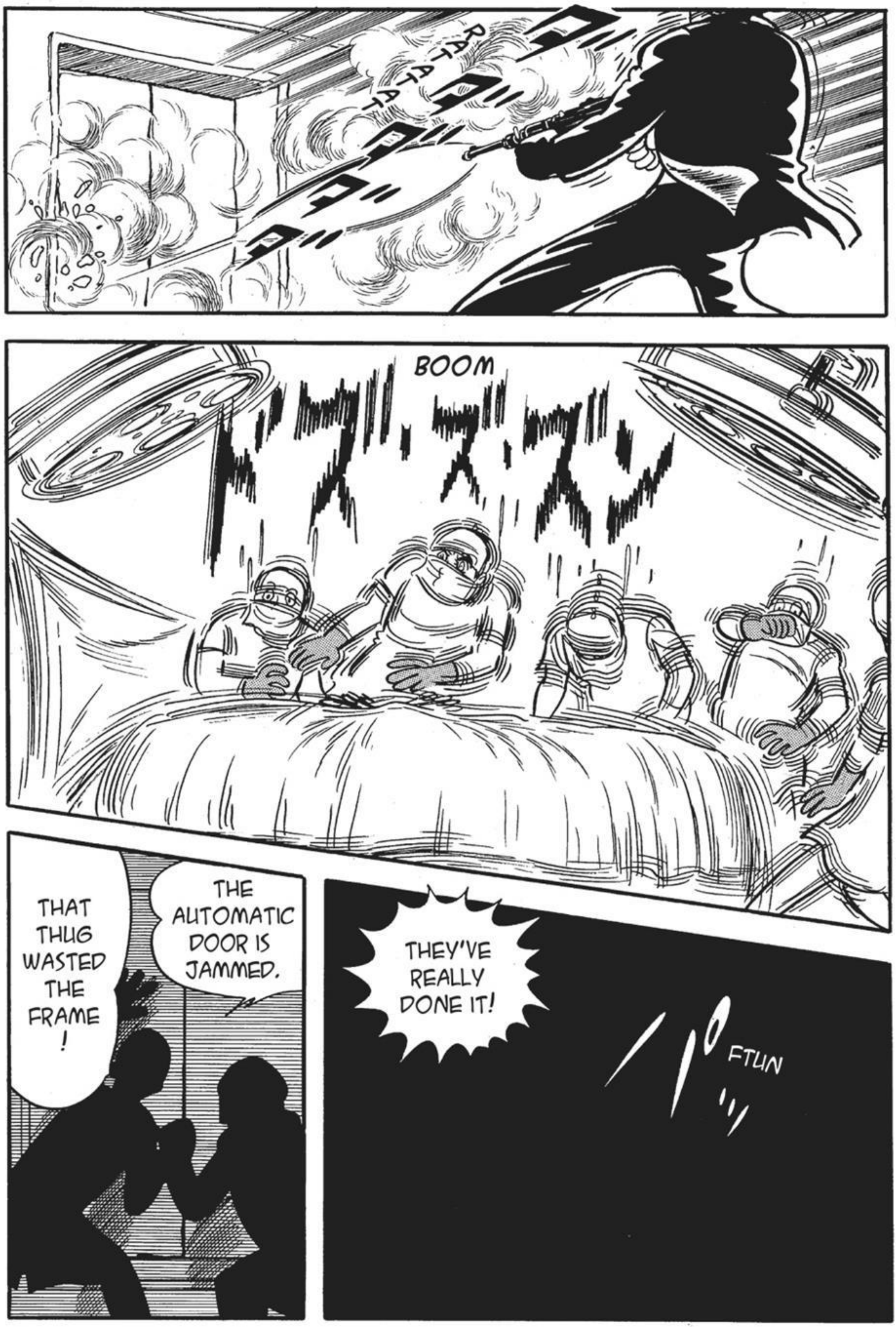

BAM
DOC-TOR!
NOW PIPE DOWN, ALL OF YOU.
...
...

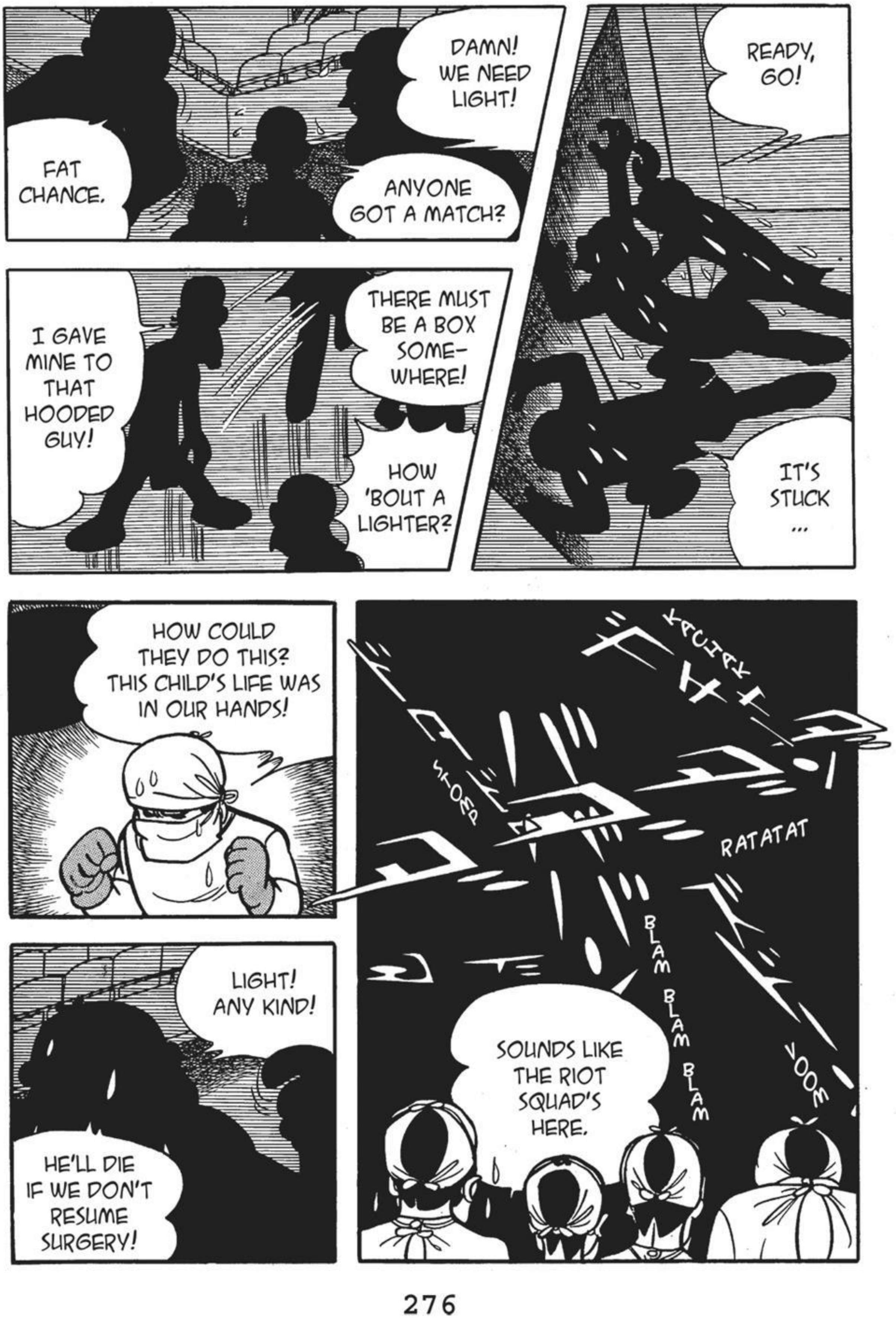

WHY'S DR. BLACK JACK JUST STANDING THERE LIKE A STATUE?
THE FEAR MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO HIM ...
WHAT A SMALL MAN.
SHH!
ATTENTION, HOSTAGES. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS ACCEPTED OUR DEMANDS. YOU WILL BE RELEASED SOON. CONGRATULATIONS.
WELL DONE, COMRADES. YOU'RE ALMOST DONE THERE.
PHEW

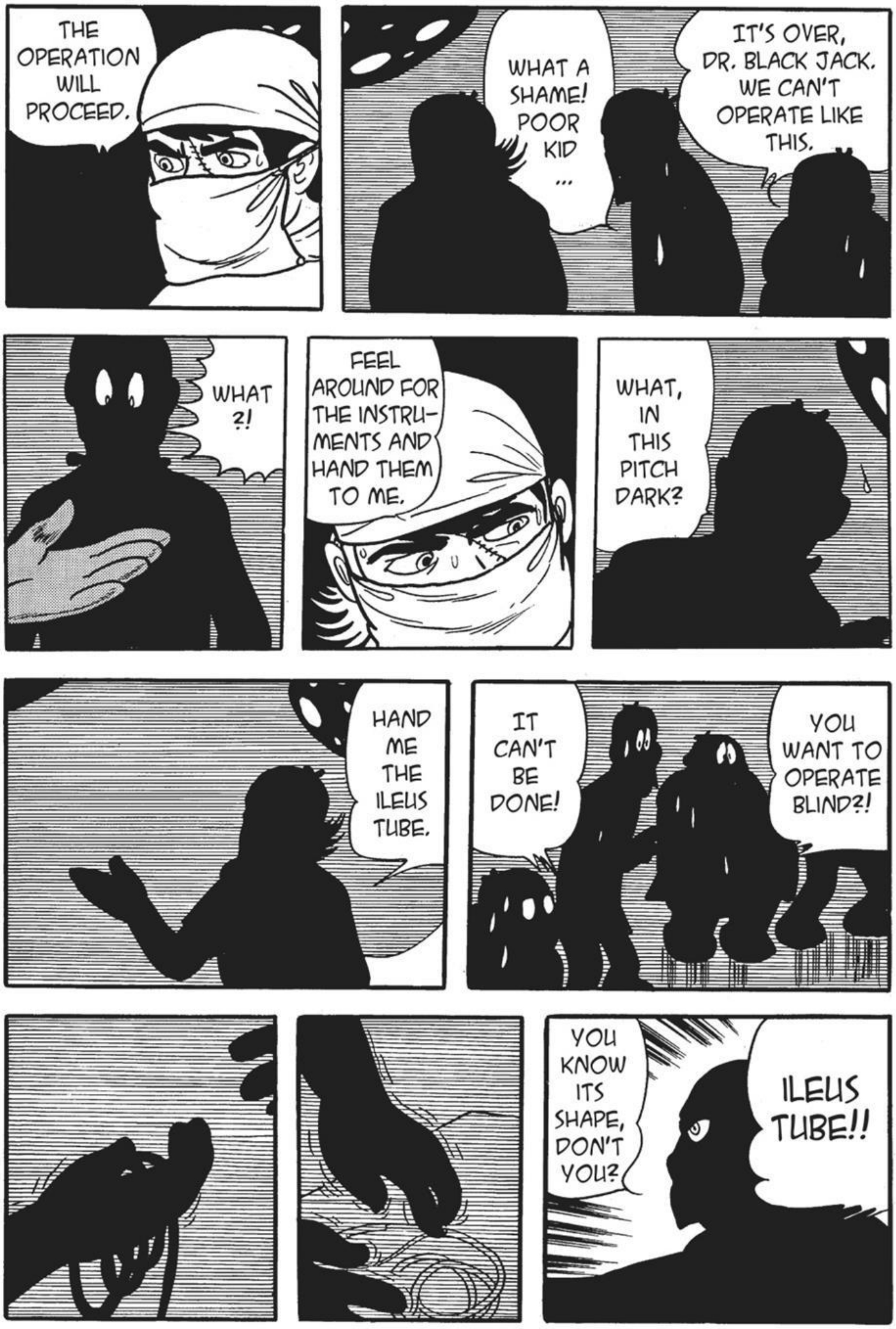

YOU CAN RELAX NOW. GO AHEAD AND TALK.
ANYONE GOT A LIGHT?
WE'RE SAVED.
I KNOW YOU ALL THINK I'M A CRUEL, RUTHLESS THUG, BUT I'M HUMAN. I HAVE A SENSE OF MERCY, TOO.
SMOKING ISN'T ALLOWED IN THE OPERATING ROOM.
OH, RIGHT, SORRY!
IS THE BLEEDING BAD?
HOW'S HE BEARING UP?
READY?
NOW! WHILE HIS GUARD'S DOWN!
FSHHH
URGH!

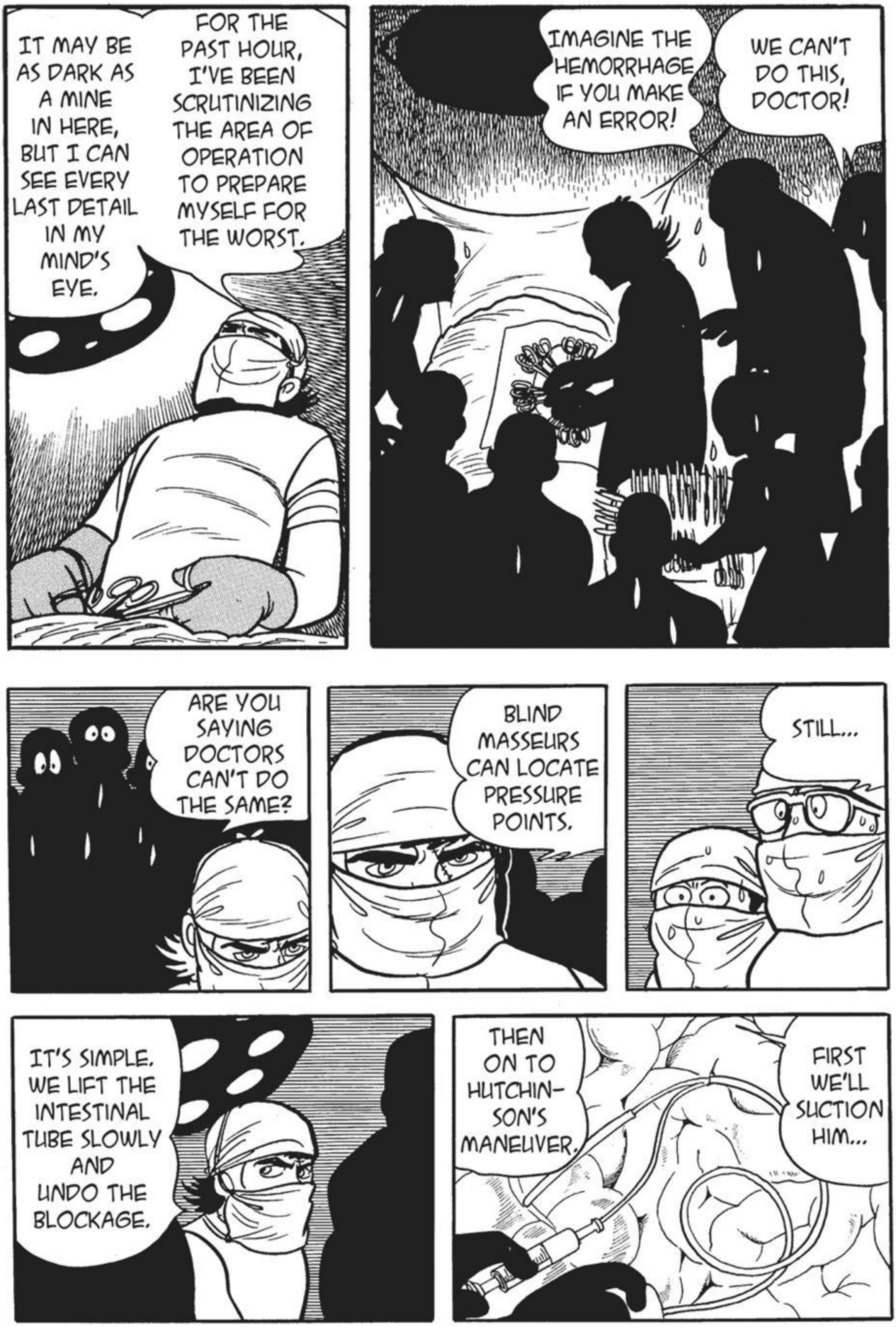

ドシン
WHUD
NOT SO FAST, DOC.
HANDS UP! AND FREEZE!
TRYING TO LIGHT UP IN AN O.R. WAS KINDA DUMB
BUT NOT AS DUMB AS ATTACKING US WITH JUST AN OXYGEN TANK.

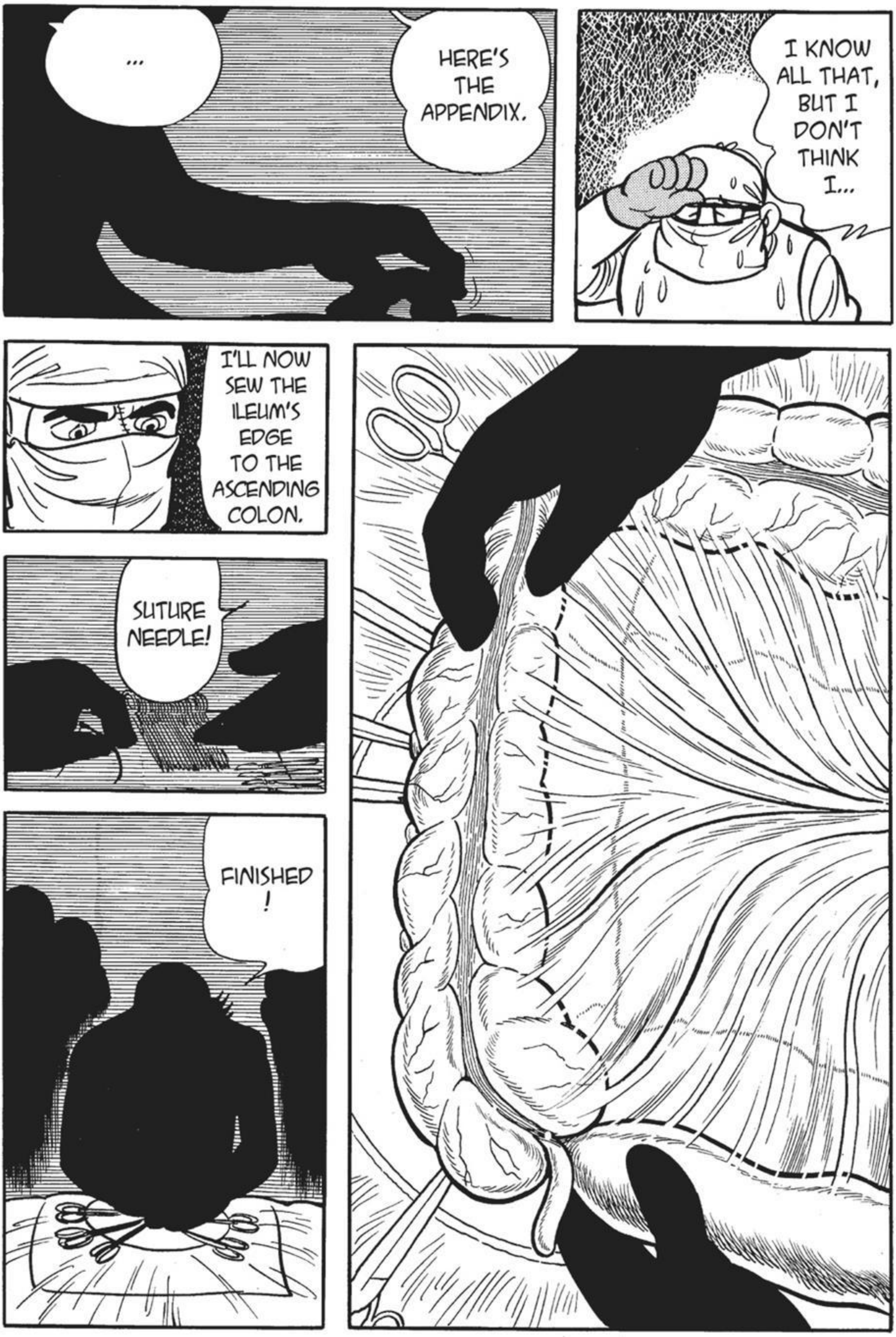

COMRADES! THE PLAN FAILED! RETREAT!
PREPARE TO DIE ...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NOW?
THOUGHT YOU'D PULL A FAST ONE, HUH?
HOSTAGES! OUR MISSION HAS BEEN THWARTED BY THE TREACHERY OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.
IN RETALIATION, WE WILL BLOW UP THE HOSPITAL'S POWER SUPPLY!
WHAT?!
WE SHALL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY TRAGEDIES THAT MAY ENSUE.
HURRY, COMRADES!
WATCH OUT!
YOU SCUM!

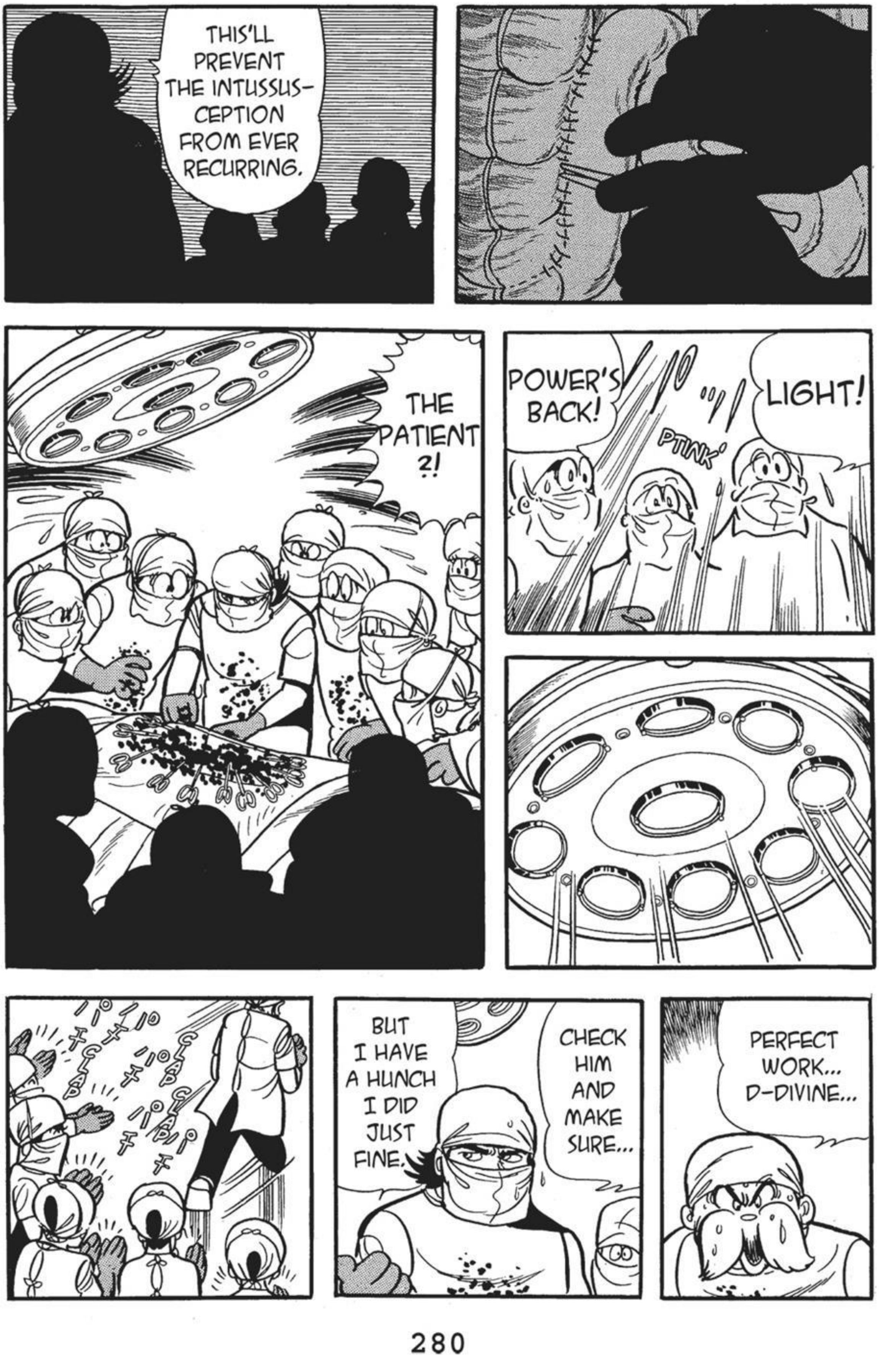

RATATAT
BOOM
ドズ・ズ・ズン
THEY'VE REALLY DONE IT!
FTUN
THE AUTOMATIC DOOR IS JAMMED.
THAT THUG WASTED THE FRAME!

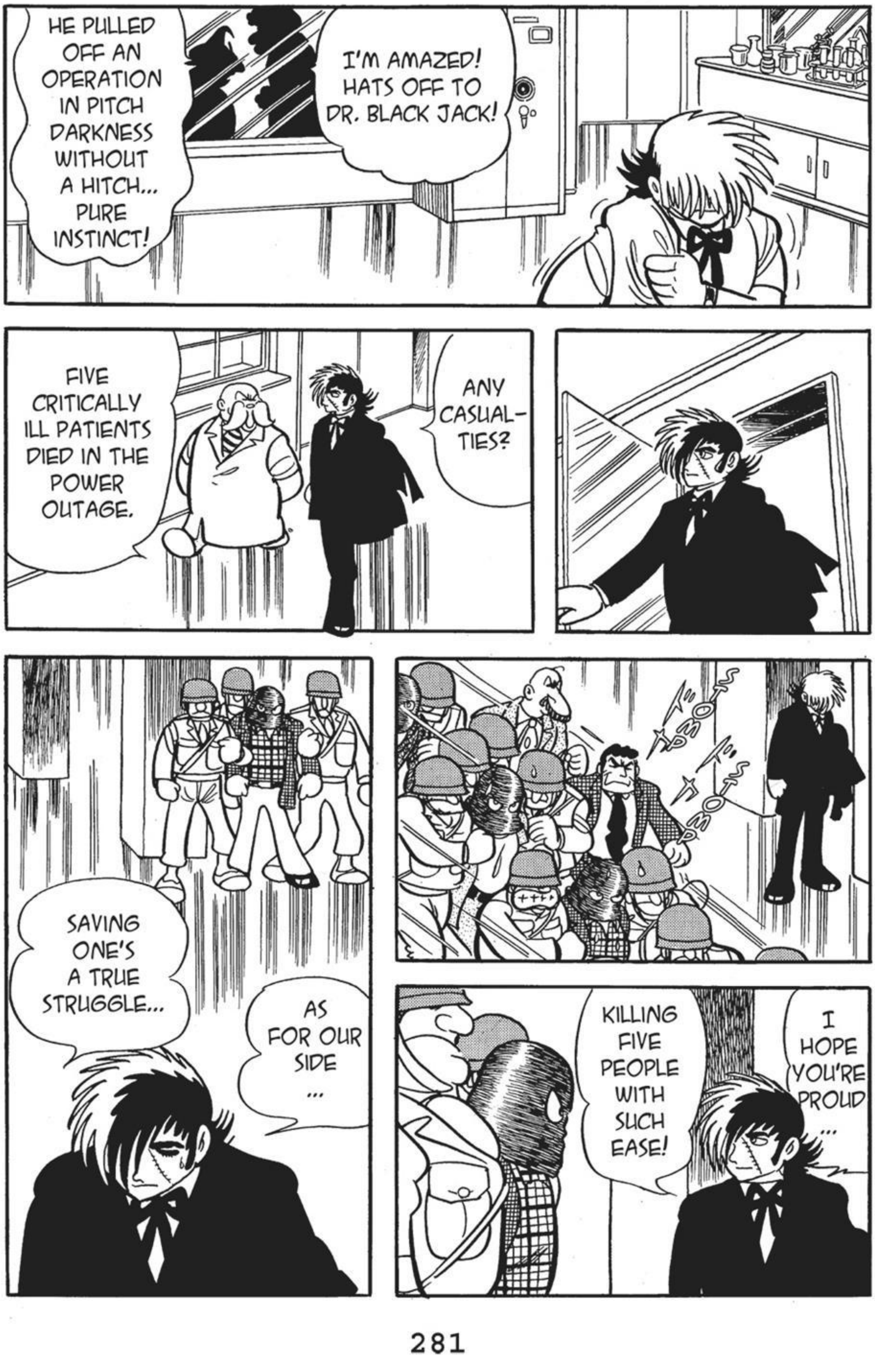

READY, GO!
IT'S STUCK ...
DAMN! WE NEED LIGHT!
ANYONE GOT A MATCH?
FAT CHANCE.
THERE MUST BE A BOX SOMEWHERE!
HOW 'BOUT A LIGHTER?
I GAVE MINE TO THAT HOODED GUY!
KACHAK
SHOEP
RATATAT
BLAM BLAM BLAM
VOOM
SOUNDS LIKE THE RIOT SQUAD'S HERE.
HOW COULD THEY DO THIS? THIS CHILD'S LIFE WAS IN OUR HANDS!
LIGHT! ANY KIND!
HE'LL DIE IF WE DON'T RESUME SURGERY!


THE OPERATION WILL PROCEED.
WHAT A SHAME! POOR KID ...
IT'S OVER, DR. BLACK JACK. WE CAN'T OPERATE LIKE THIS.
WHAT ?!
FEEL AROUND FOR THE INSTRUMENTS AND HAND THEM TO ME.
WHAT, IN THIS PITCH DARK?
HAND ME THE ILEUS TUBE.
IT CAN'T BE DONE!
YOU WANT TO OPERATE BLIND?!
YOU KNOW ITS SHAPE, DON'T YOU?
ILEUS TUBE!!

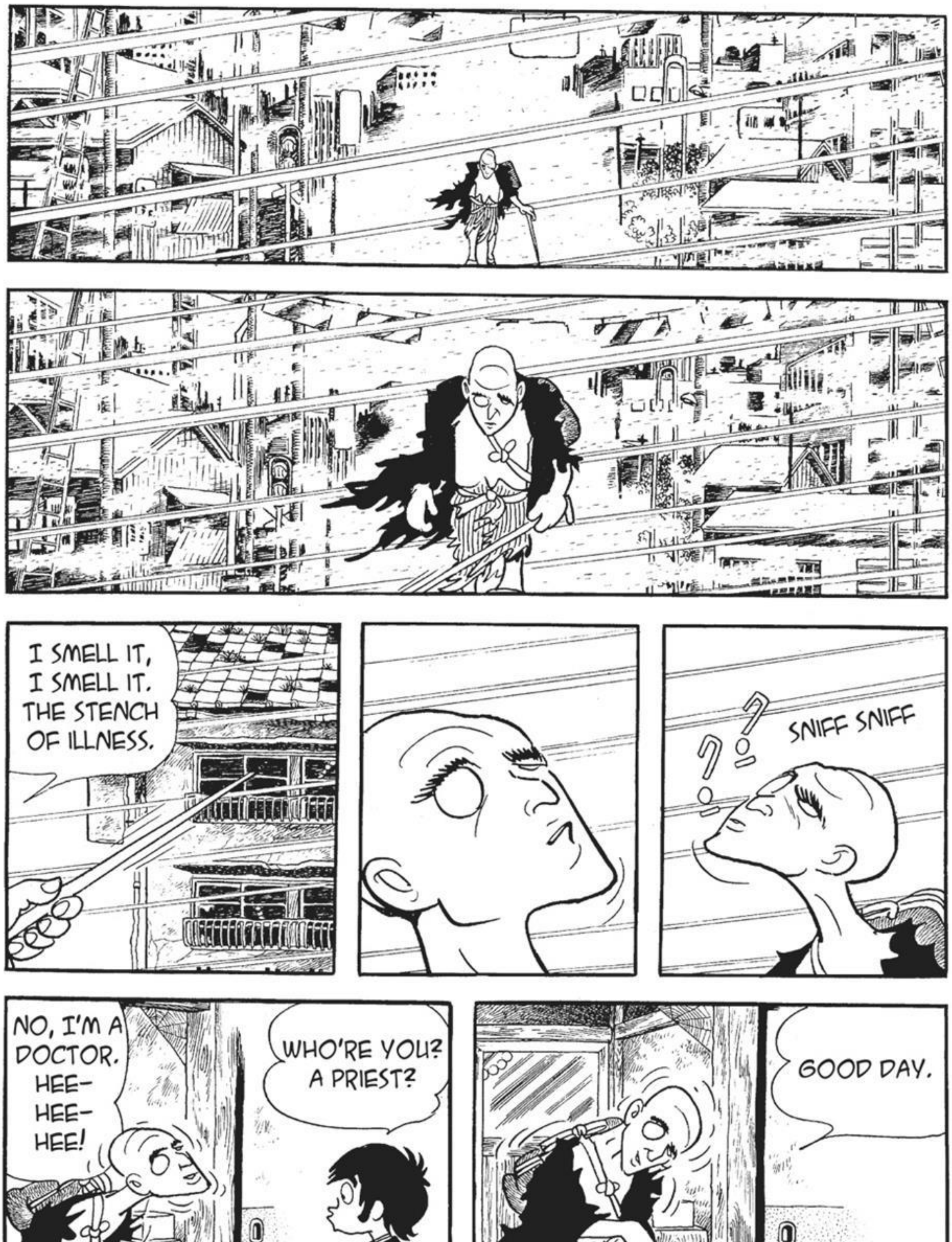

FOR THE PAST HOUR, I'VE BEEN SCRUTINIZING THE AREA OF OPERATION TO PREPARE MYSELF FOR THE WORST.
IT MAY BE AS DARK AS A MINE IN HERE, BUT I CAN SEE EVERY LAST DETAIL IN MY MIND'S EYE.
WE CAN'T DO THIS, DOCTOR!
IMAGINE THE HEMORRHAGE IF YOU MAKE AN ERROR!
ARE YOU SAYING DOCTORS CAN'T DO THE SAME?
BLIND MASSEURS CAN LOCATE PRESSURE POINTS.
STILL...
IT'S SIMPLE. WE LIFT THE INTESTINAL TUBE SLOWLY AND UNDO THE BLOCKAGE.
FIRST WE'LL SUCTION HIM...
THEN ON TO HUTCHINSON'S MANEUVER.


...
HERE'S THE APPENDIX.
I KNOW ALL THAT, BUT I DON'T THINK I...
I'LL NOW SEW THE ILEUM'S EDGE TO THE ASCENDING COLON.
SUTURE NEEDLE!
FINISHED!

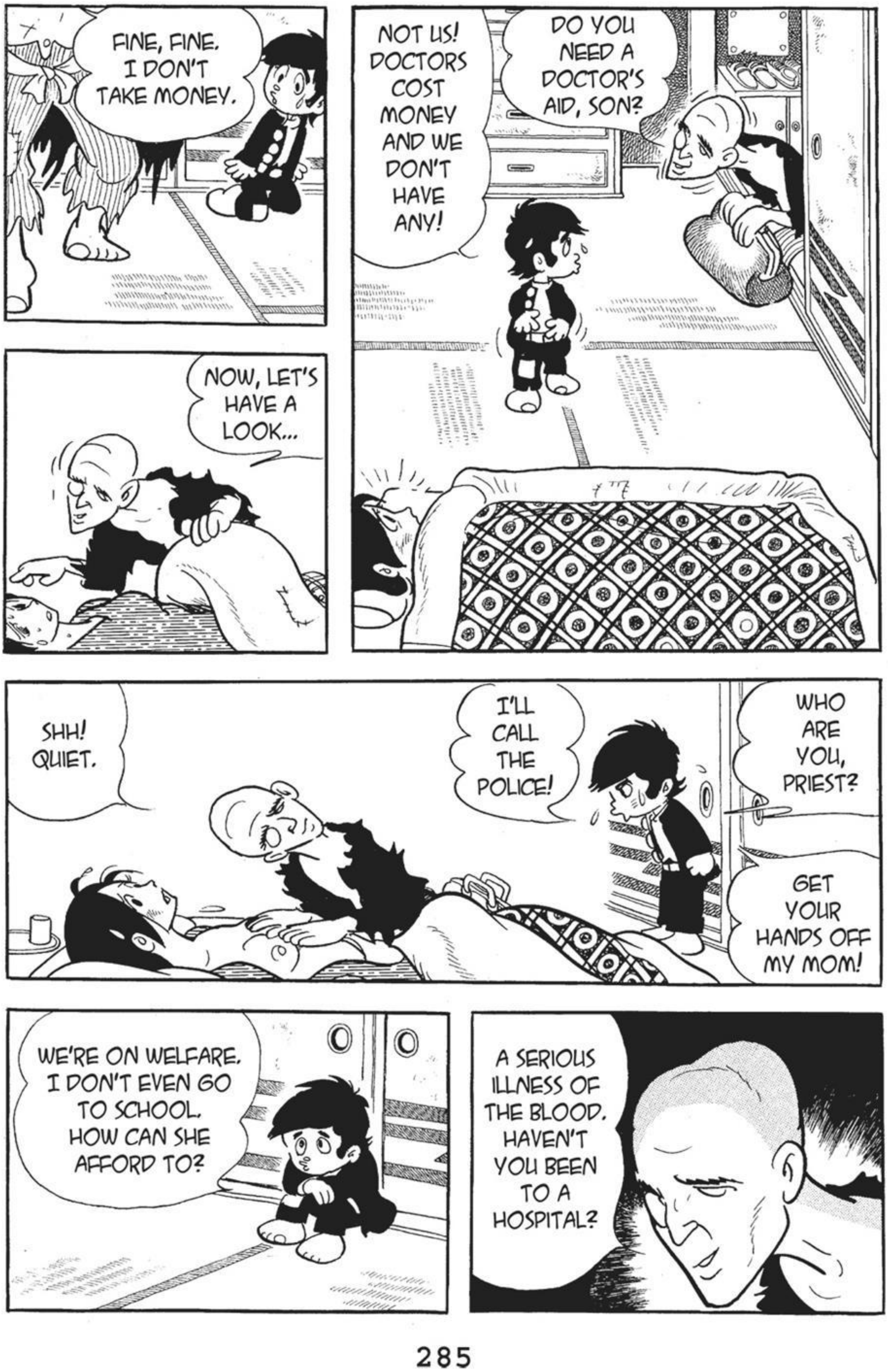

THIS'LL PREVENT THE INTUSSUSCEPTION FROM EVER RECURRING.
LIGHT!
PTINK
POWER'S BACK!
THE PATIENT ?!
PERFECT WORK... D-DIVINE...
CHECK HIM AND MAKE SURE...
BUT I HAVE A HUNCH I DID JUST FINE.
CLAP CLAP
CLAP
パチパチ

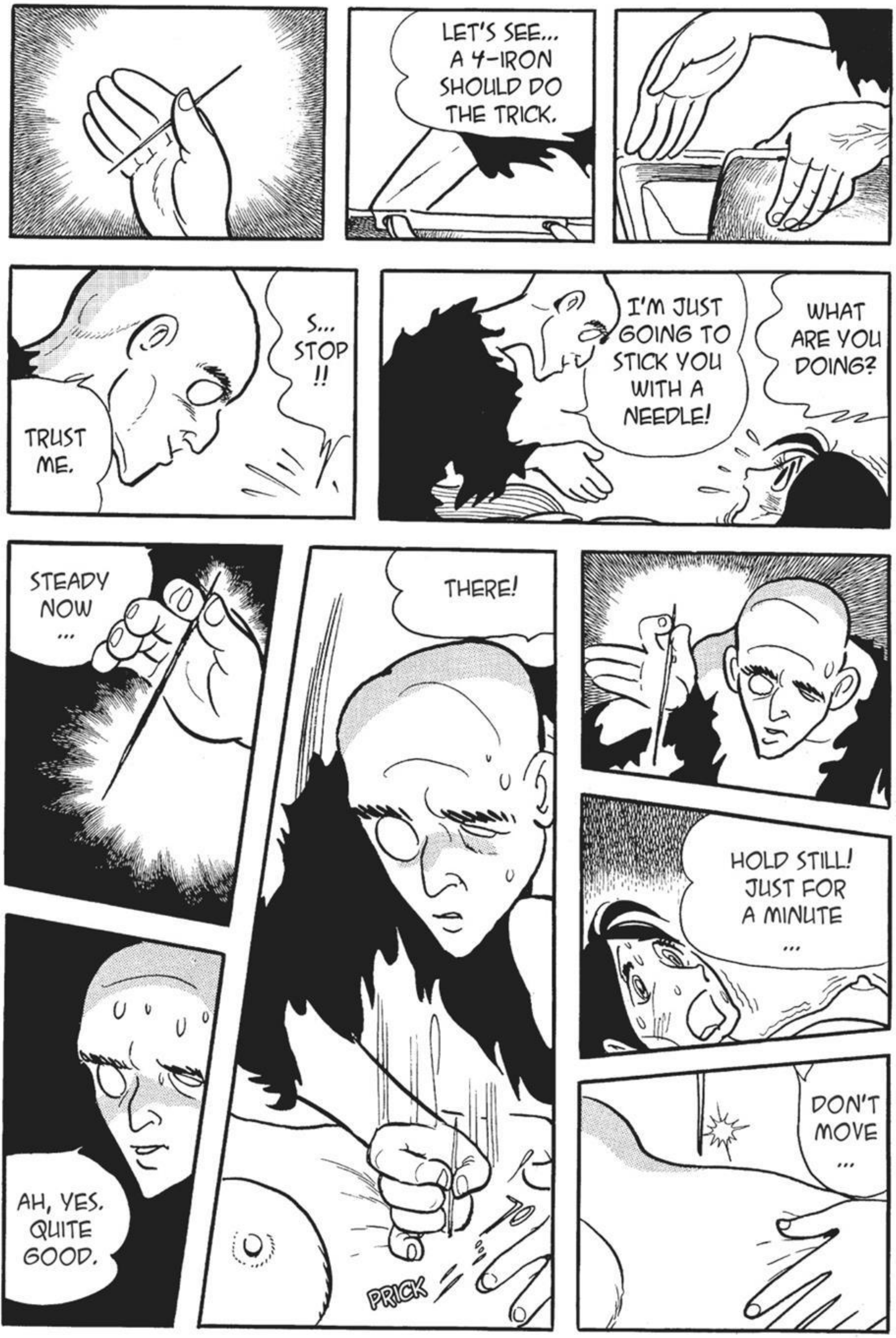

I'M AMAZED! HATS OFF TO DR. BLACK JACK!
HE PULLED OFF AN OPERATION IN PITCH DARKNESS WITHOUT A HITCH... PURE INSTINCT!
ANY CASUALTIES?
FIVE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS DIED IN THE POWER OUTAGE.
STOMP STOMP
I HOPE YOU'RE PROUD...
KILLING FIVE PEOPLE WITH SUCH EASE!
AS FOR OUR SIDE...
SAVING ONE'S A TRUE STRUGGLE...

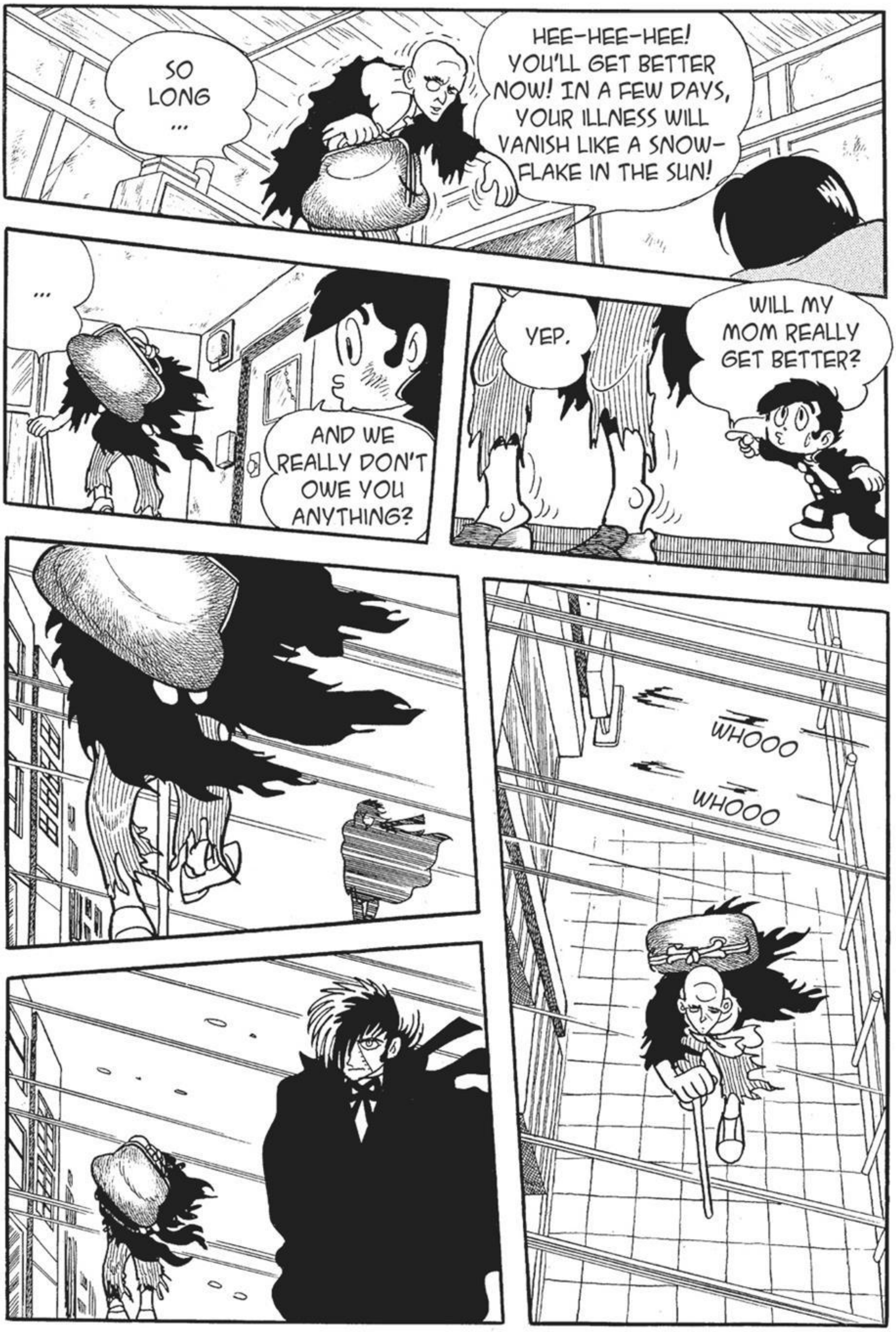
THE BLIND ACUPUNCTURIST

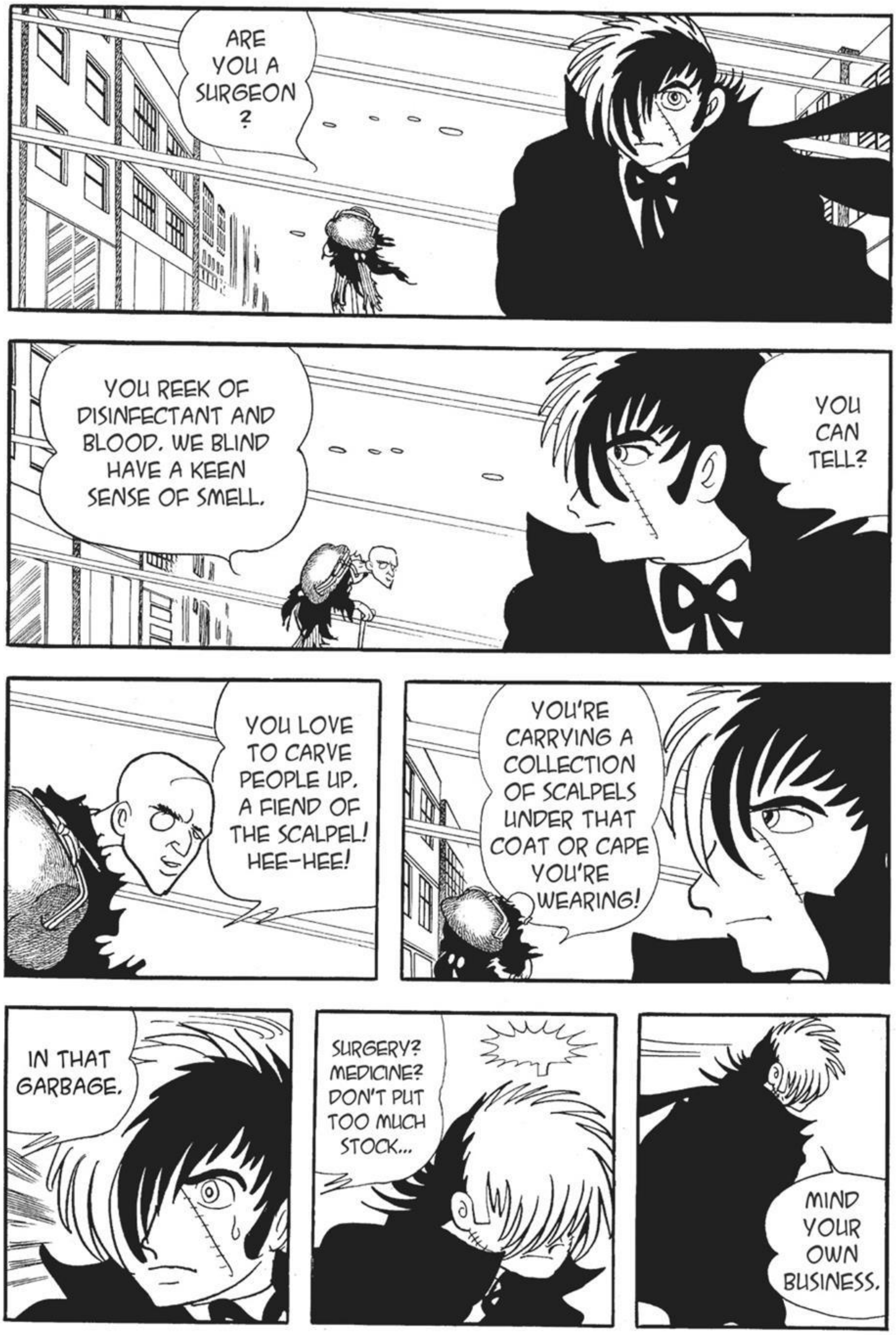

SNIFF SNIFF
I SMELL IT, I SMELL IT. THE STENCH OF ILLNESS.
GOOD DAY.
WHO'RE YOU? A PRIEST?
NO, I'M A DOCTOR. HEE-HEE-HEE!

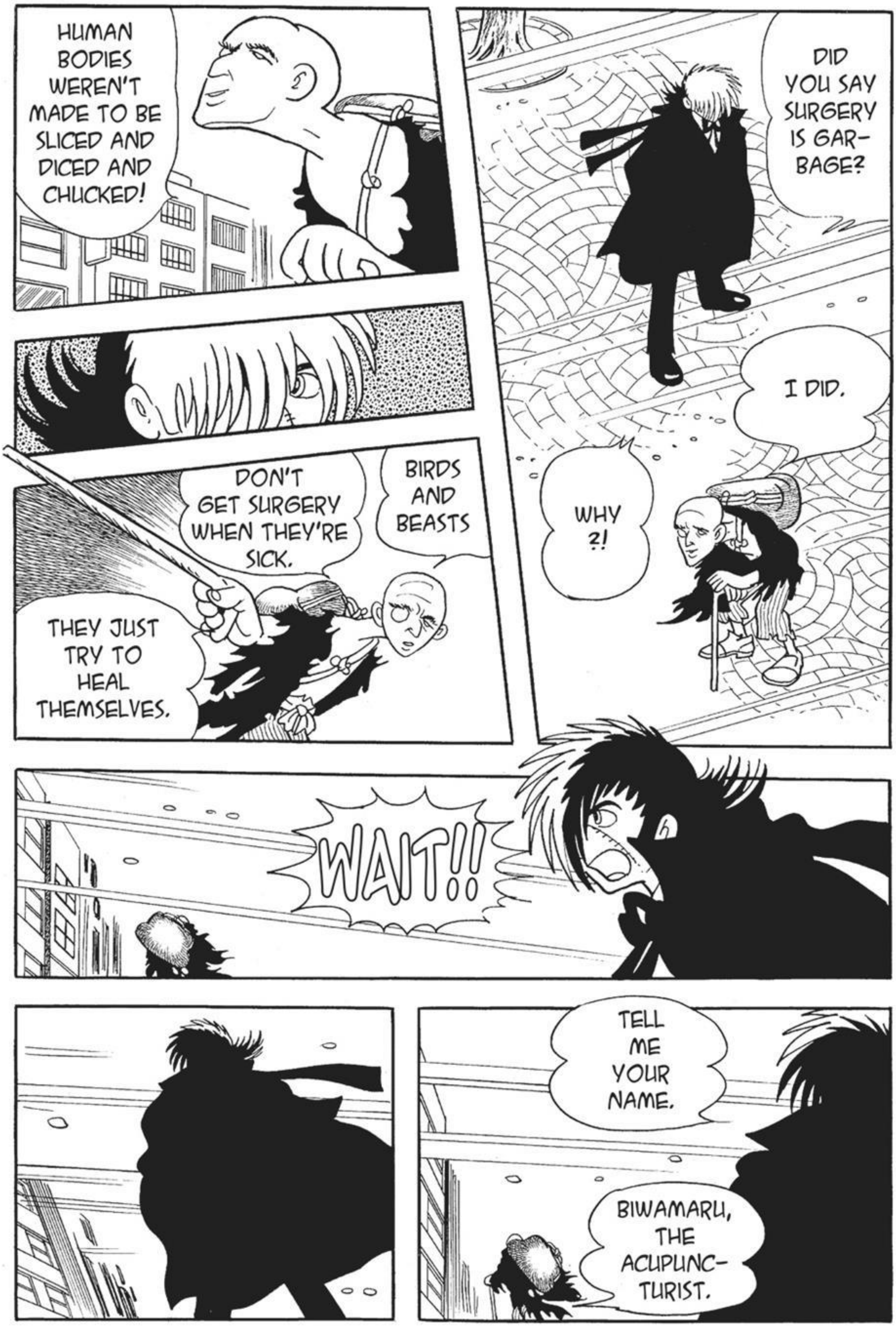
NOTE: THE STORY'S JAPANESE TITLE "ZATOISHI" ("ISHI" = *DOCTOR*) PLAYS ON THE FAMOUS SERIES ABOUT A BLIND BUT INVINCIBLE SWORDSMAN, *ZATOICHI*.

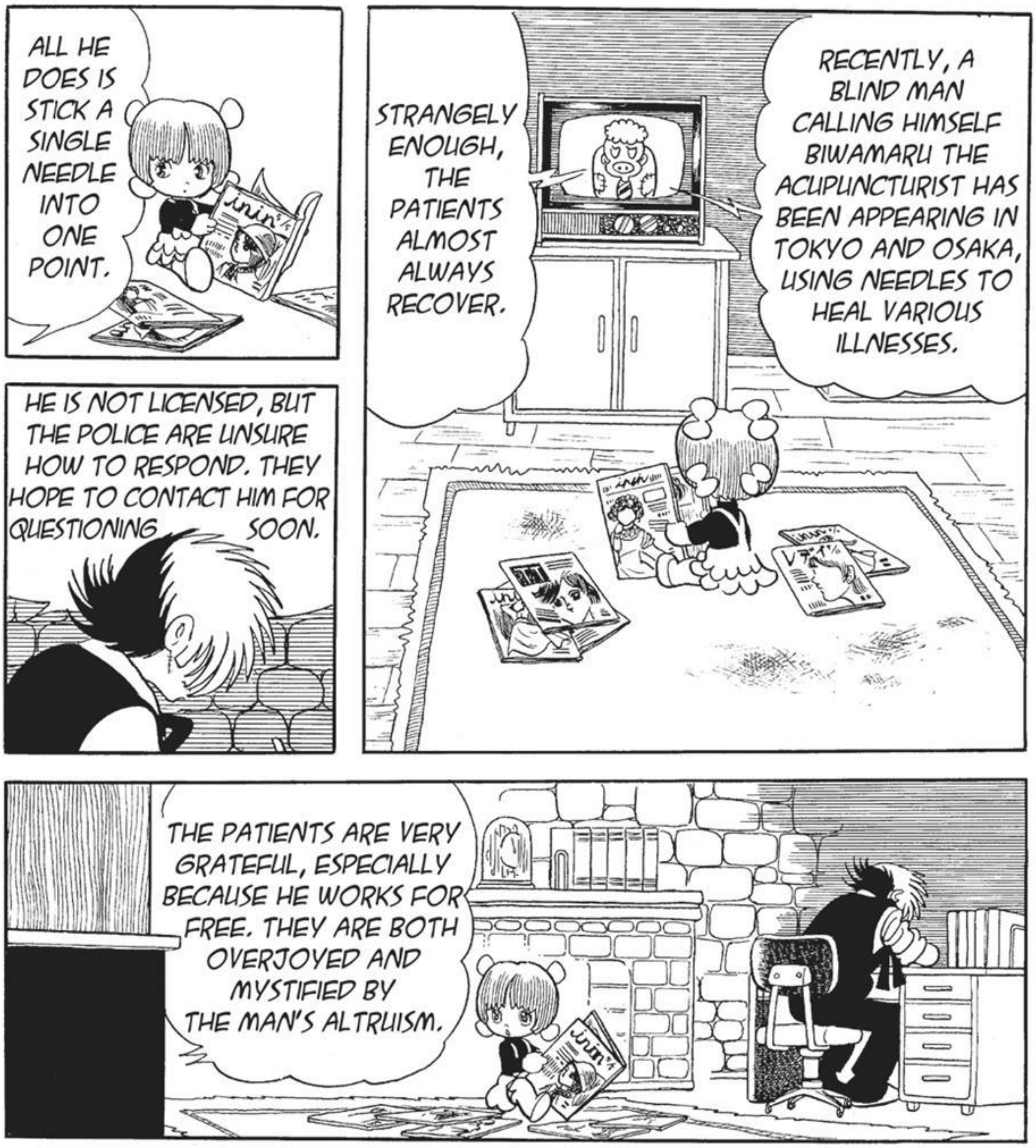

DO YOU NEED A DOCTOR'S AID, SON?
NOT US! DOCTORS COST MONEY AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY!
FINE, FINE. I DON'T TAKE MONEY.
NOW, LET'S HAVE A LOOK...
WHO ARE YOU, PRIEST?
GET YOUR HANDS OFF MY MOM!
I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
SHH! QUIET.
A SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE BLOOD. HAVEN'T YOU BEEN TO A HOSPITAL?
WE'RE ON WELFARE. I DON'T EVEN GO TO SCHOOL. HOW CAN SHE AFFORD TO?

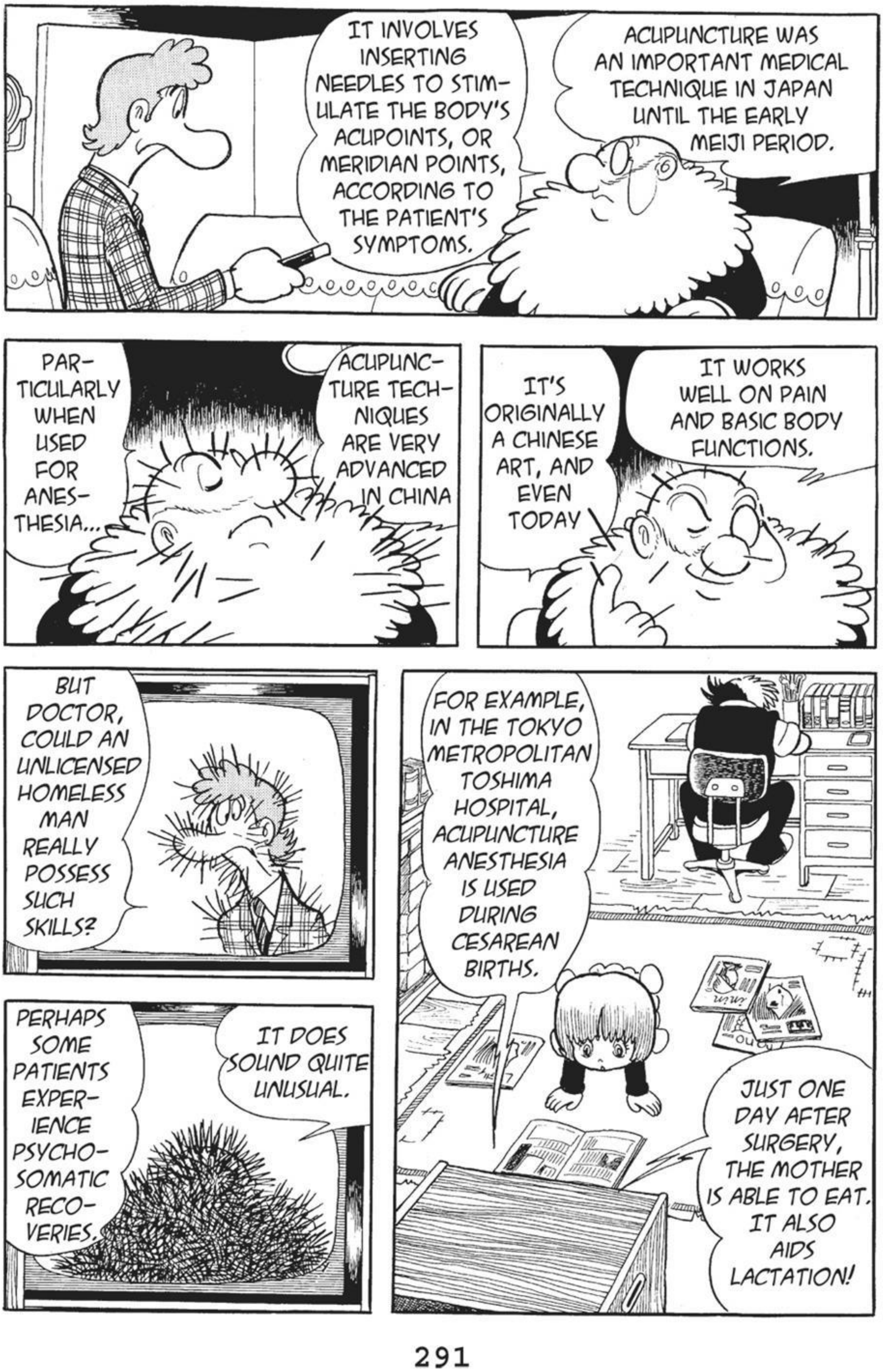

LET'S SEE... A 4-IRON SHOULD DO THE TRICK.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M JUST GOING TO STICK YOU WITH A NEEDLE!
S... STOP !!
TRUST ME.
HOLD STILL! JUST FOR A MINUTE ...
DON'T MOVE ...
THERE!
PRICK
STEADY NOW ...
AH, YES. QUITE GOOD.

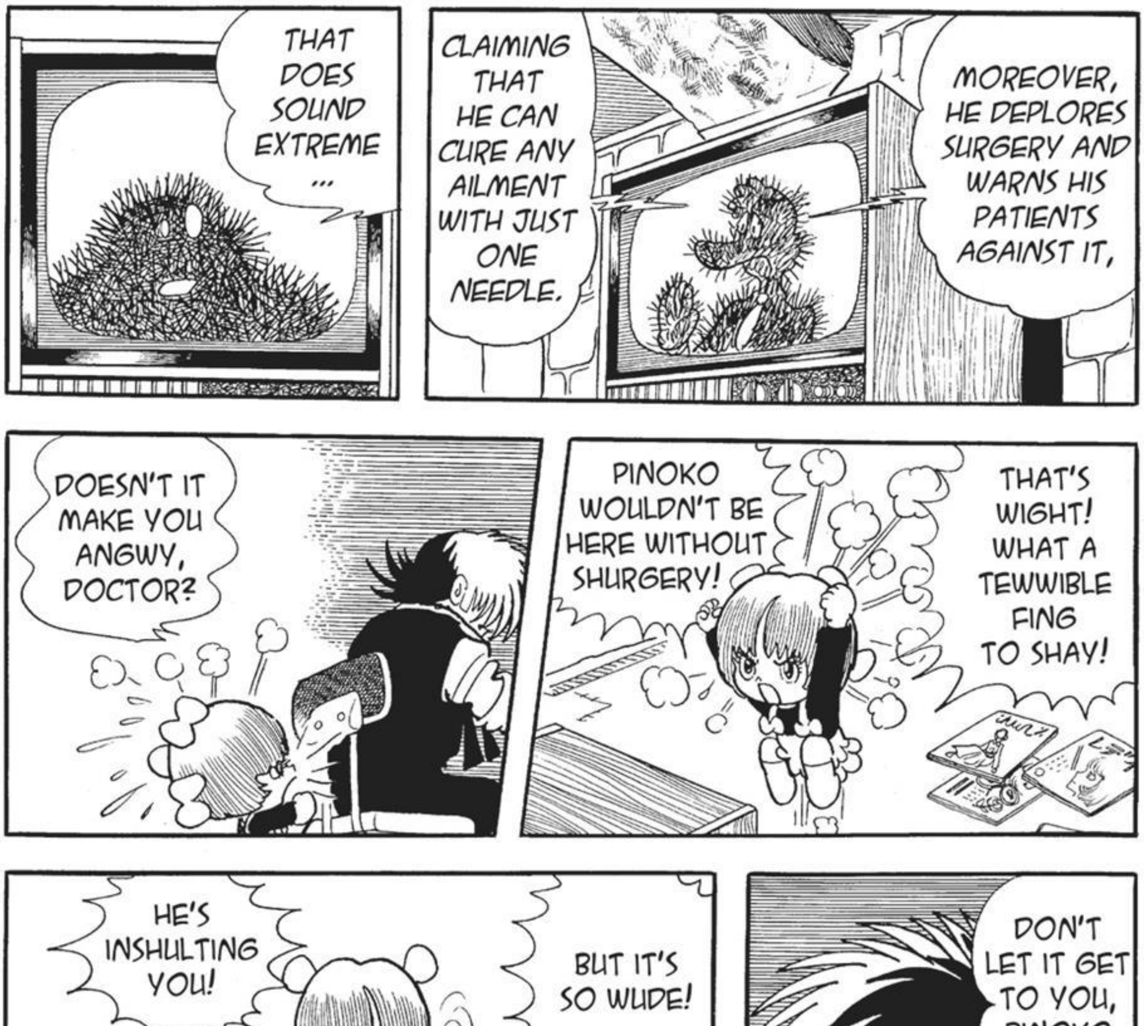

HEE-HEE-HEE! YOU'LL GET BETTER NOW! IN A FEW DAYS, YOUR ILLNESS WILL VANISH LIKE A SNOW-FLAKE IN THE SUN!
SO LONG ...
WILL MY MOM REALLY GET BETTER?
YEP.
...
AND WE REALLY DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING?
WHOOO
WHOOO

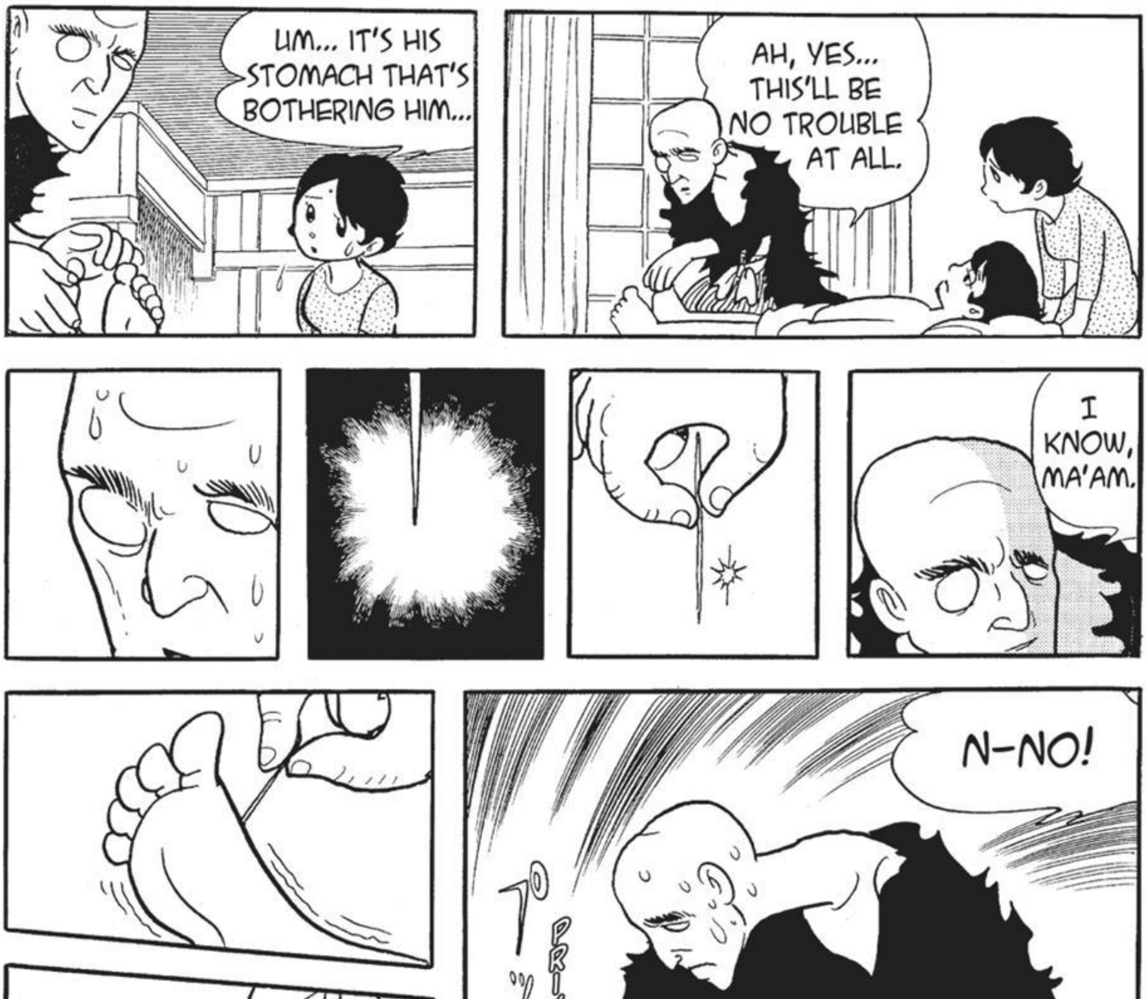

ARE YOU A SURGEON?
YOU REEK OF DISINFECTANT AND BLOOD. WE BLIND HAVE A KEEN SENSE OF SMELL.
YOU CAN TELL?
YOU LOVE TO CARVE PEOPLE UP. A FIEND OF THE SCALPEL! HEE-HEE!
YOU'RE CARRYING A COLLECTION OF SCALPELS UNDER THAT COAT OR CAPE YOU'RE WEARING!
IN THAT GARBAGE.
SURGERY? MEDICINE? DON'T PUT TOO MUCH STOCK...
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

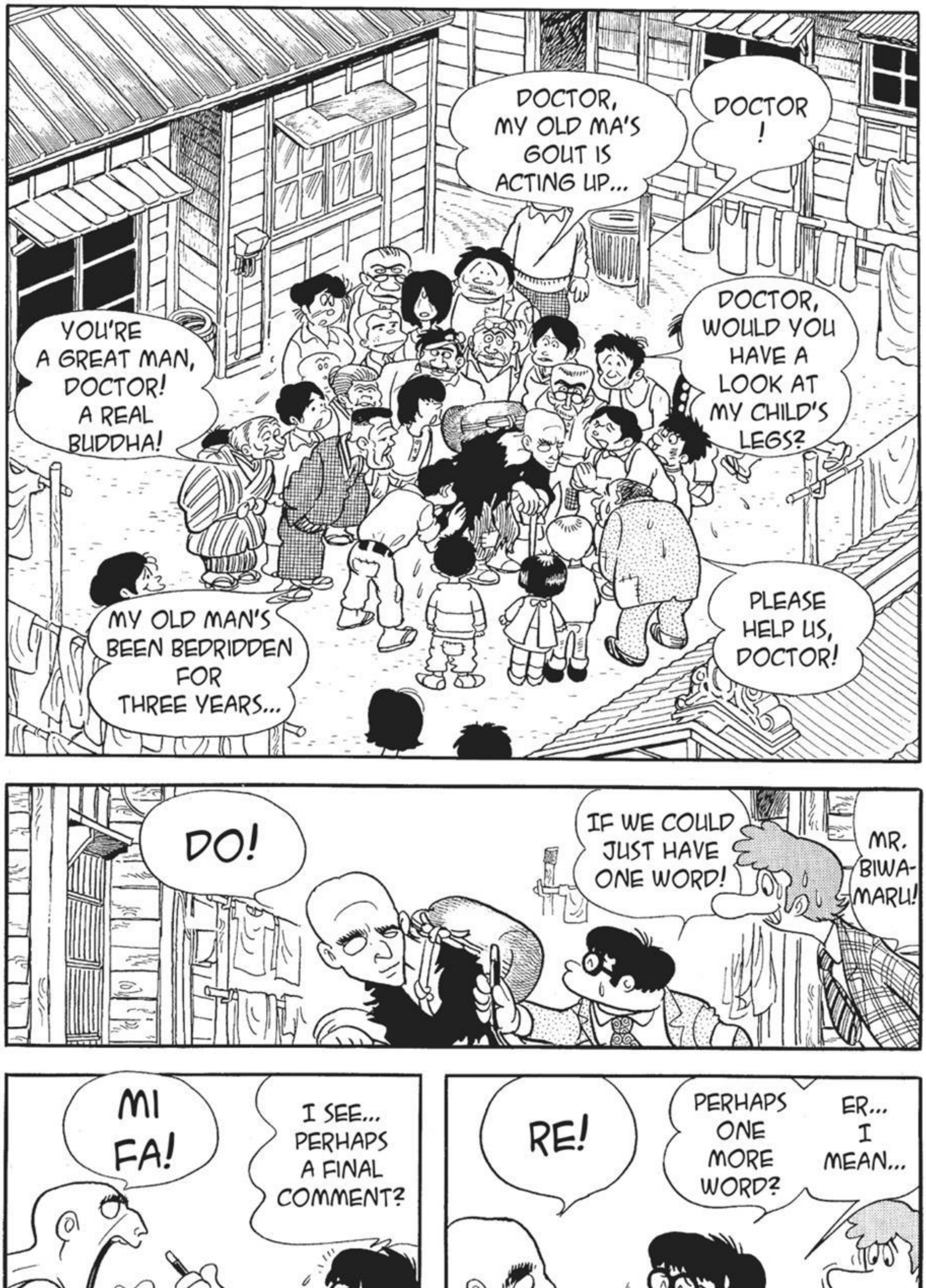

DID YOU SAY SURGERY IS GARBAGE?
I DID.
WHY ?!
HUMAN BODIES WEREN'T MADE TO BE SLICED AND DICED AND CHUCKED!
BIRDS AND BEASTS
DON'T GET SURGERY WHEN THEY'RE SICK.
THEY JUST TRY TO HEAL THEMSELVES.
WAIT!!
TELL ME YOUR NAME.
BIWAMARU, THE ACUPUNCTURIST.

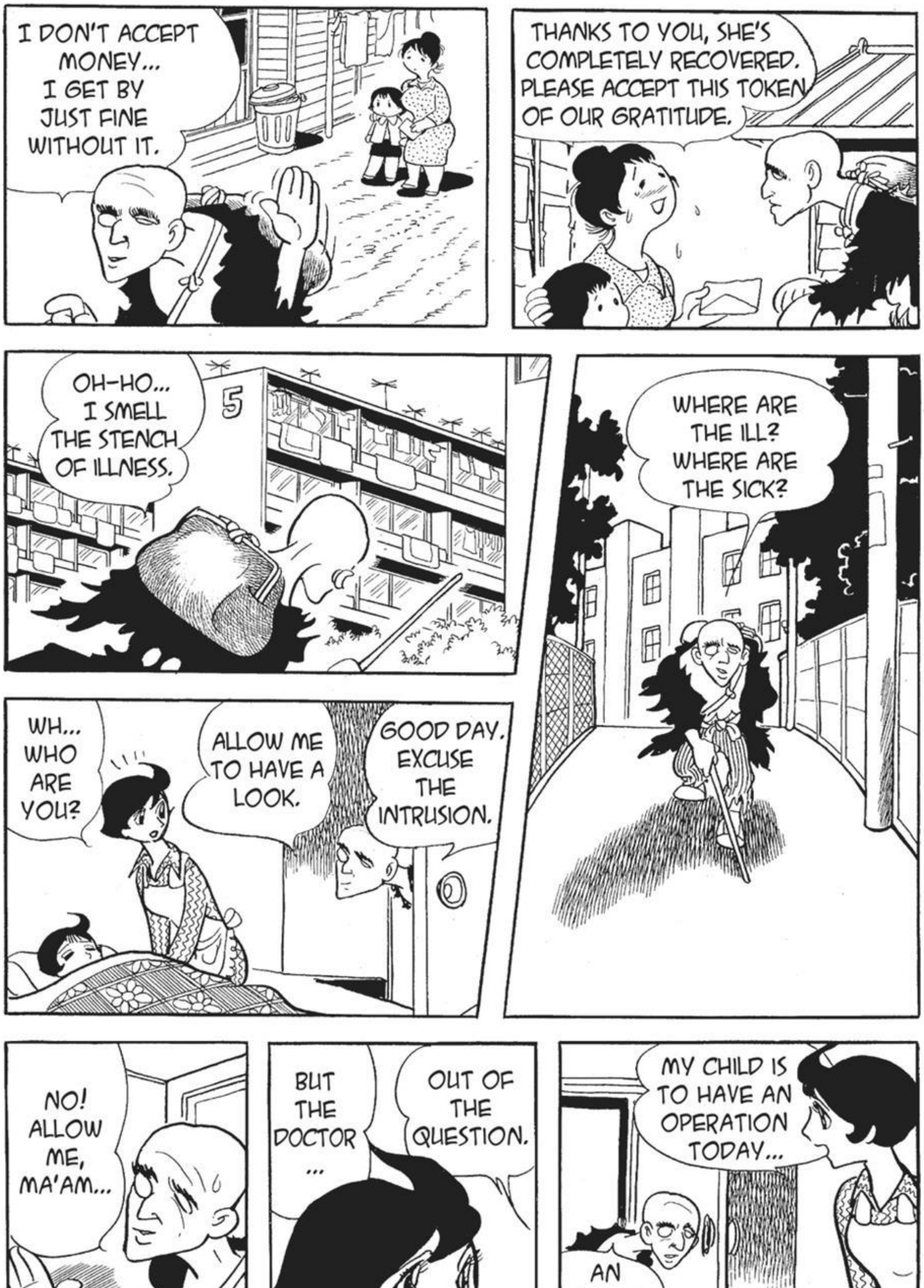

RECENTLY, A BLIND MAN CALLING HIMSELF BIWAMARU THE ACUPUNCTURIST HAS BEEN APPEARING IN TOKYO AND OSAKA, USING NEEDLES TO HEAL VARIOUS ILLNESSES.
STRANGELY ENOUGH, THE PATIENTS ALMOST ALWAYS RECOVER.
ALL HE DOES IS STICK A SINGLE NEEDLE INTO ONE POINT.
HE IS NOT LICENSED, BUT THE POLICE ARE UNSURE HOW TO RESPOND. THEY HOPE TO CONTACT HIM FOR QUESTIONING SOON.
THE PATIENTS ARE VERY GRATEFUL, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE HE WORKS FOR FREE. THEY ARE BOTH OVERJOYED AND MYSTIFIED BY THE MAN'S ALTRUISM.
THE MAN'S TRUE NAME, BACKGROUND, AND MOTIVES ARE UNKNOWN.
DR. YAMADANO, CAN A SINGLE NEEDLE PRICK REALLY HEAL A PERSON?

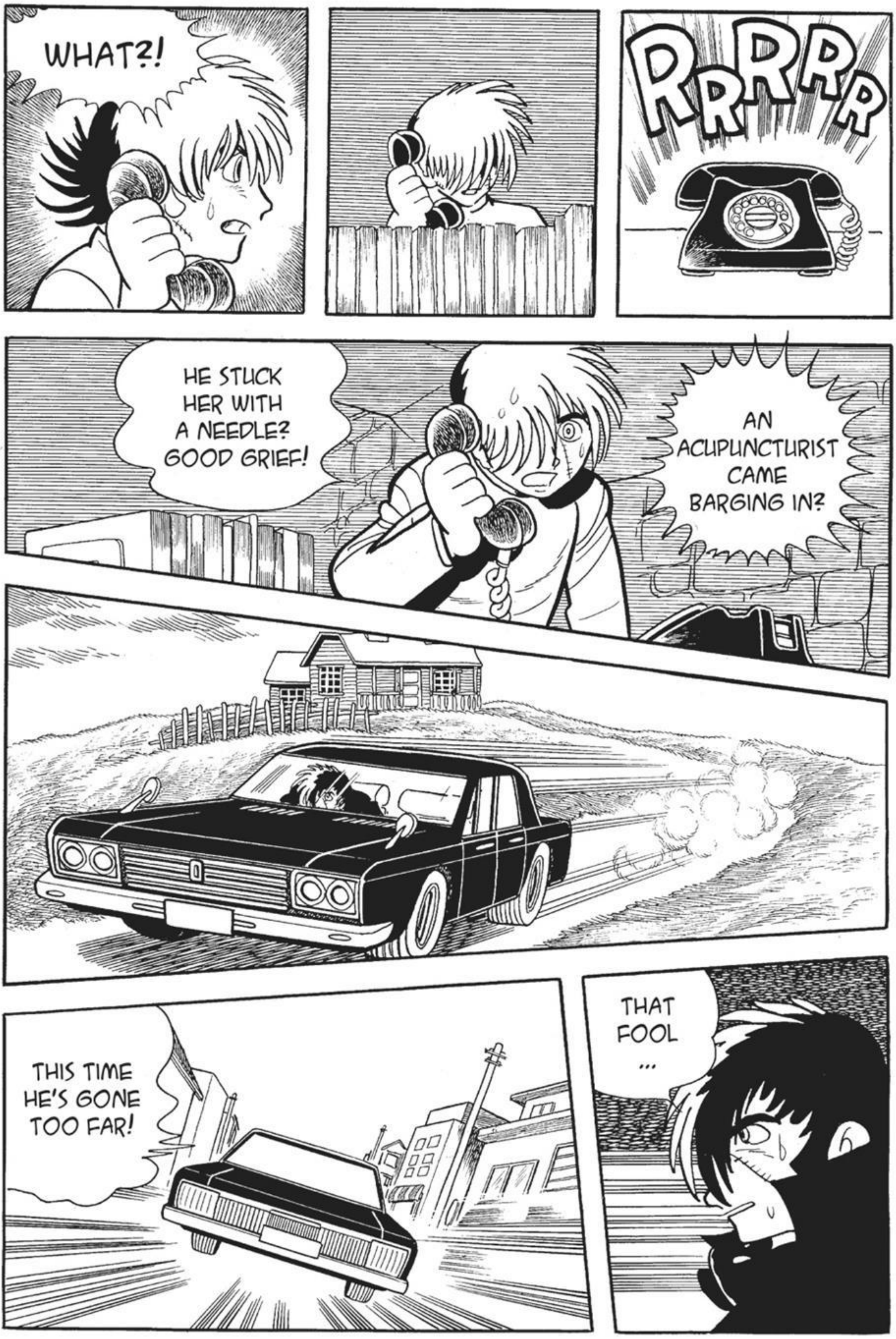

ACUPUNCTURE WAS AN IMPORTANT MEDICAL TECHNIQUE IN JAPAN UNTIL THE EARLY MEIJI PERIOD.
IT INVOLVES INSERTING NEEDLES TO STIMULATE THE BODY'S ACUPOINTS, OR MERIDIAN POINTS, ACCORDING TO THE PATIENT'S SYMPTOMS.
IT WORKS WELL ON PAIN AND BASIC BODY FUNCTIONS.
IT'S ORIGINALLY A CHINESE ART, AND EVEN TODAY
ACUPUNCTURE TECHNIQUES ARE VERY ADVANCED IN CHINA
PARTICULARLY WHEN USED FOR ANESTHESIA...
FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN TOSHIMA HOSPITAL, ACUPUNCTURE ANESTHESIA IS USED DURING CESAREAN BIRTHS.
JUST ONE DAY AFTER SURGERY, THE MOTHER IS ABLE TO EAT. IT ALSO AIDS LACTATION!
BUT DOCTOR, COULD AN UNLICENSED HOMELESS MAN REALLY POSSESS SUCH SKILLS?
IT DOES SOUND QUITE UNUSUAL.
PERHAPS SOME PATIENTS EXPERIENCE PSYCHOSOMATIC RECOVERIES.

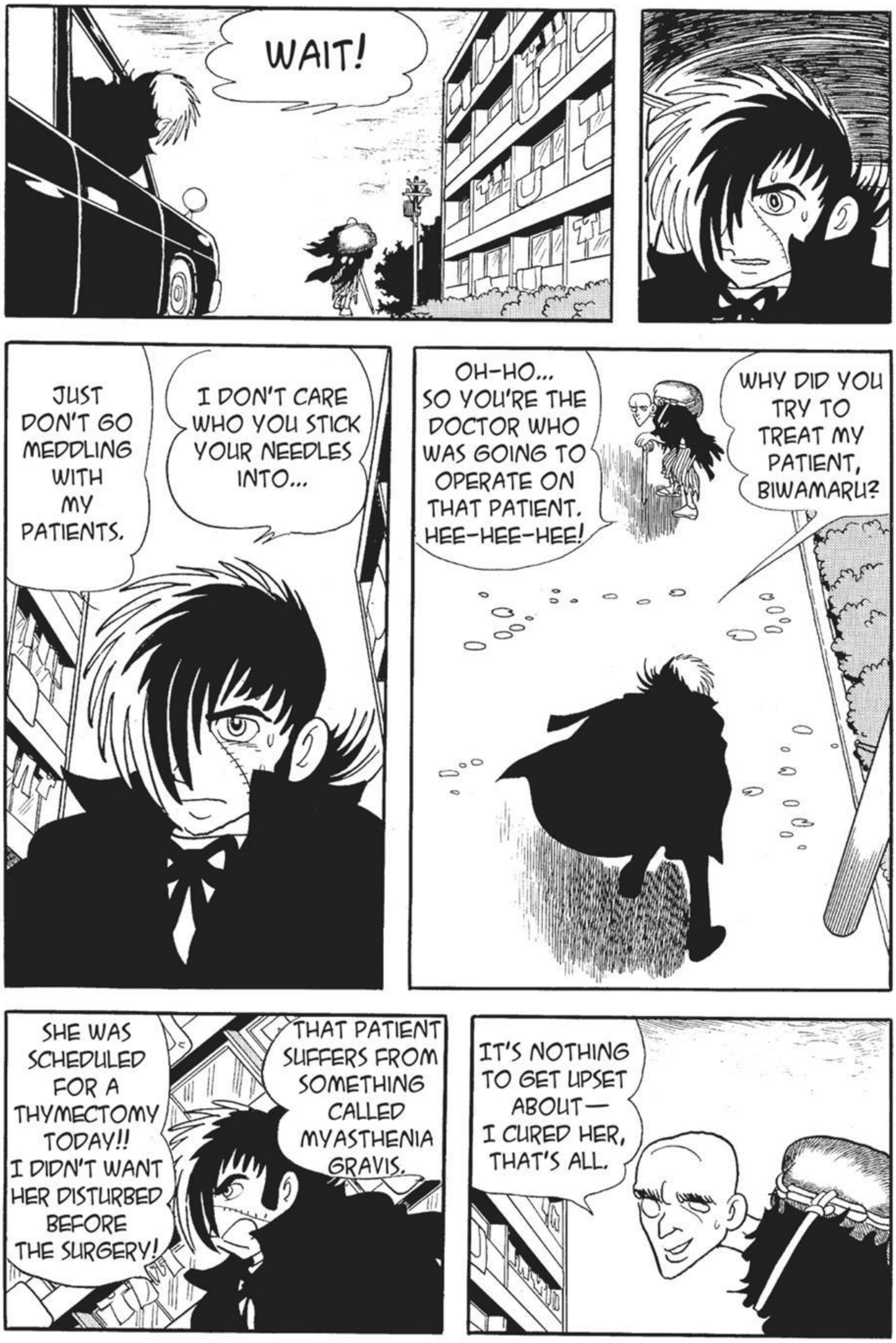

MOREOVER, HE DEPLORES SURGERY AND WARNS HIS PATIENTS AGAINST IT,
CLAIMING THAT HE CAN CURE ANY AILMENT WITH JUST ONE NEEDLE.
THAT DOES SOUND EXTREME ...
THAT'S WIGHT! WHAT A TEWWIBLE FING TO SHAY!
PINOKO WOULDN'T BE HERE WITHOUT SHURGERY!
DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU ANGWY, DOCTOR?
DON'T LET IT GET TO YOU, PINOKO.
BUT IT'S SO WUDE!
HE'S INSHULTING YOU!
I WON'T SHTAND FOR IT!
IT MAKES A WIFE ANGWY TO HEAR
HER HUSBAND'S WORK CWITICIZED!
DON'T SHAKE SO MUCH. YOUR PANTIES ARE FALLING DOWN.

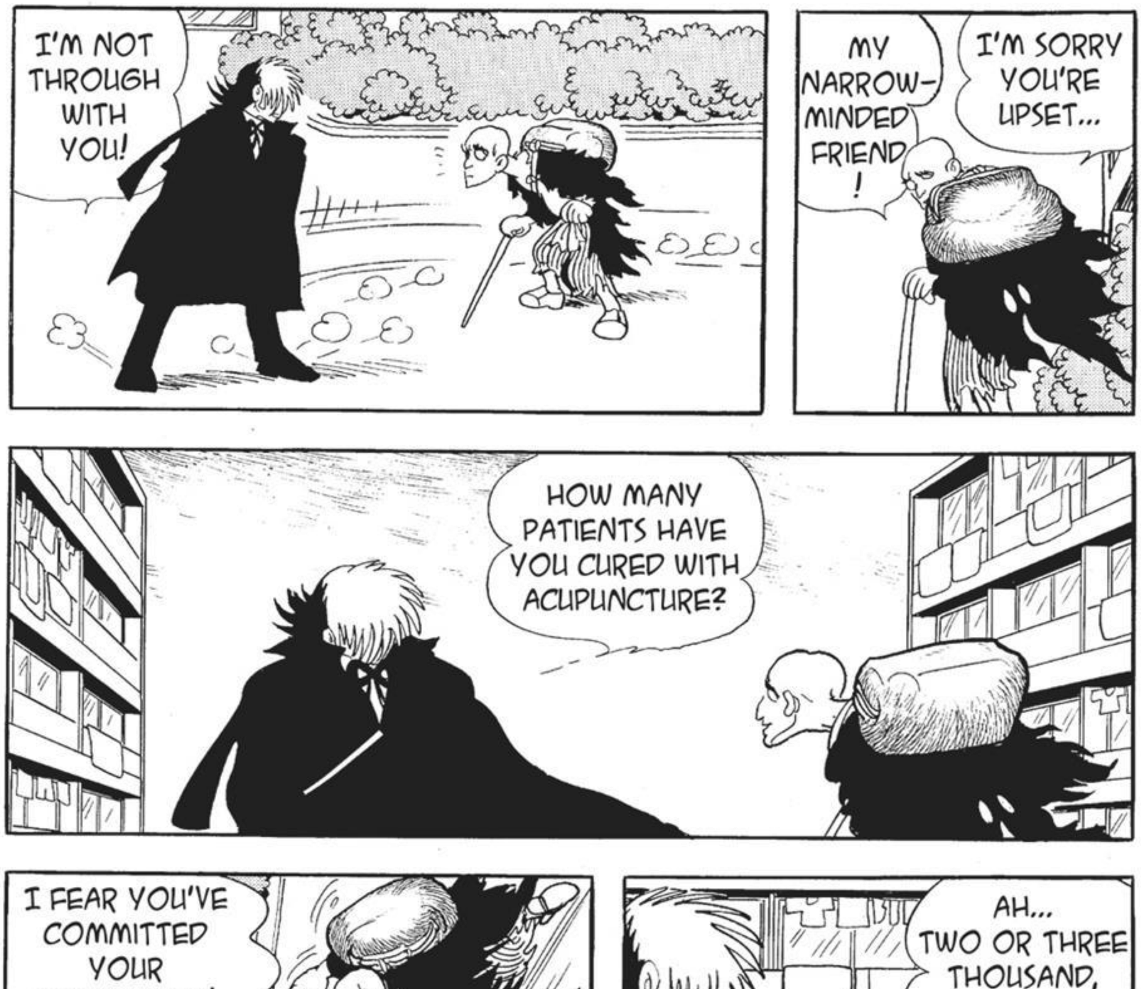

UM... IT'S HIS STOMACH THAT'S BOTHERING HIM...
AH, YES... THIS'LL BE NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
I KNOW, MA'AM.
N-NO!
PRIK
WILL THAT REALLY MAKE HIM WELL?
YOU'LL KNOW IN A FEW DAYS! HEE-HEE-HEE!
YOU'LL BE FINE NOW.

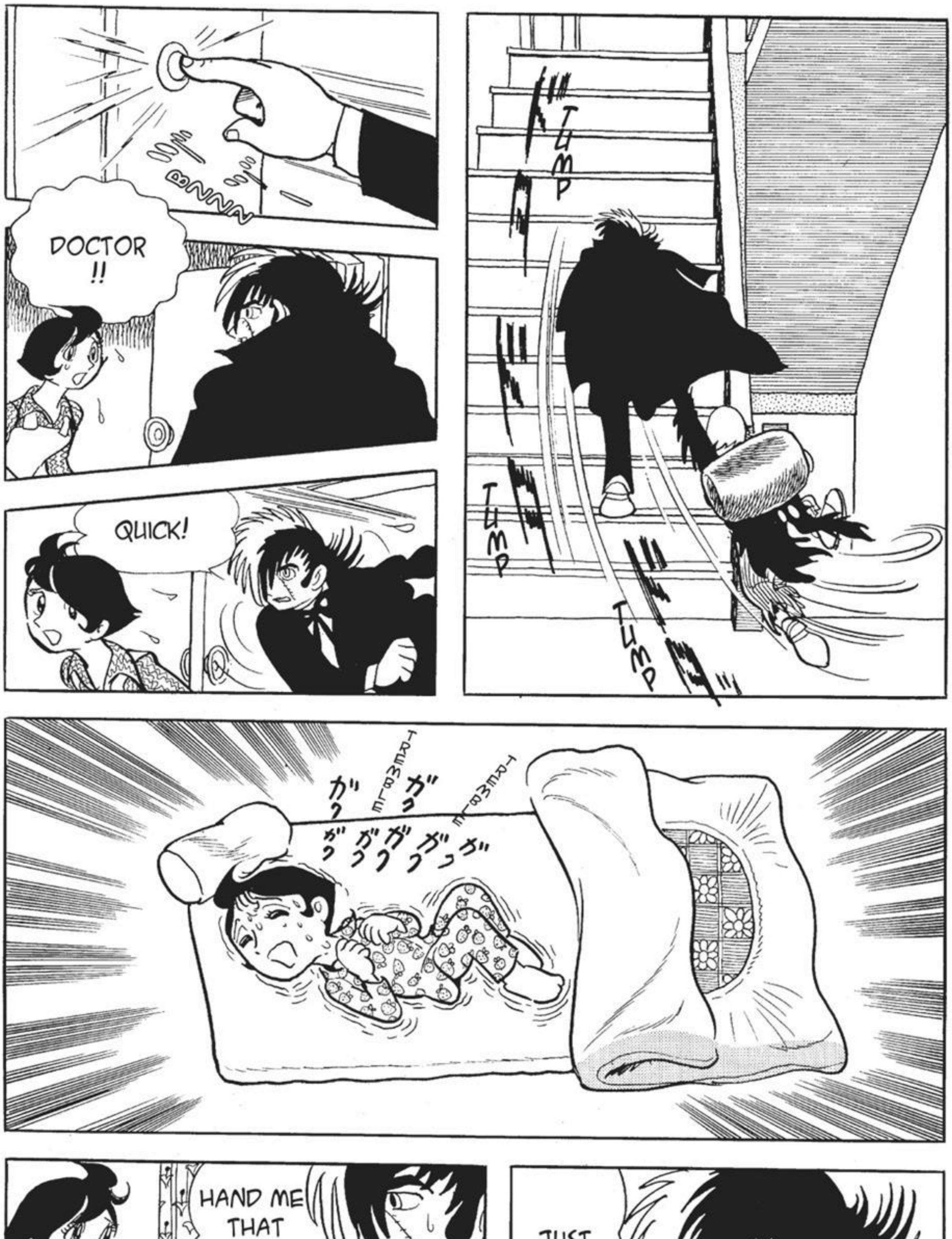

DOCTOR!
DOCTOR, MY OLD MA'S GOUT IS ACTING UP...
DOCTOR, WOULD YOU HAVE A LOOK AT MY CHILD'S LEGS?
YOU'RE A GREAT MAN, DOCTOR! A REAL BUDDHA!
PLEASE HELP US, DOCTOR!
MY OLD MAN'S BEEN BEDRIDDEN FOR THREE YEARS...
MR. BIWAMARU!
IF WE COULD JUST HAVE ONE WORD!
DO!
ER... I MEAN...
PERHAPS ONE MORE WORD?
RE!
I SEE... PERHAPS A FINAL COMMENT?
MI FA!

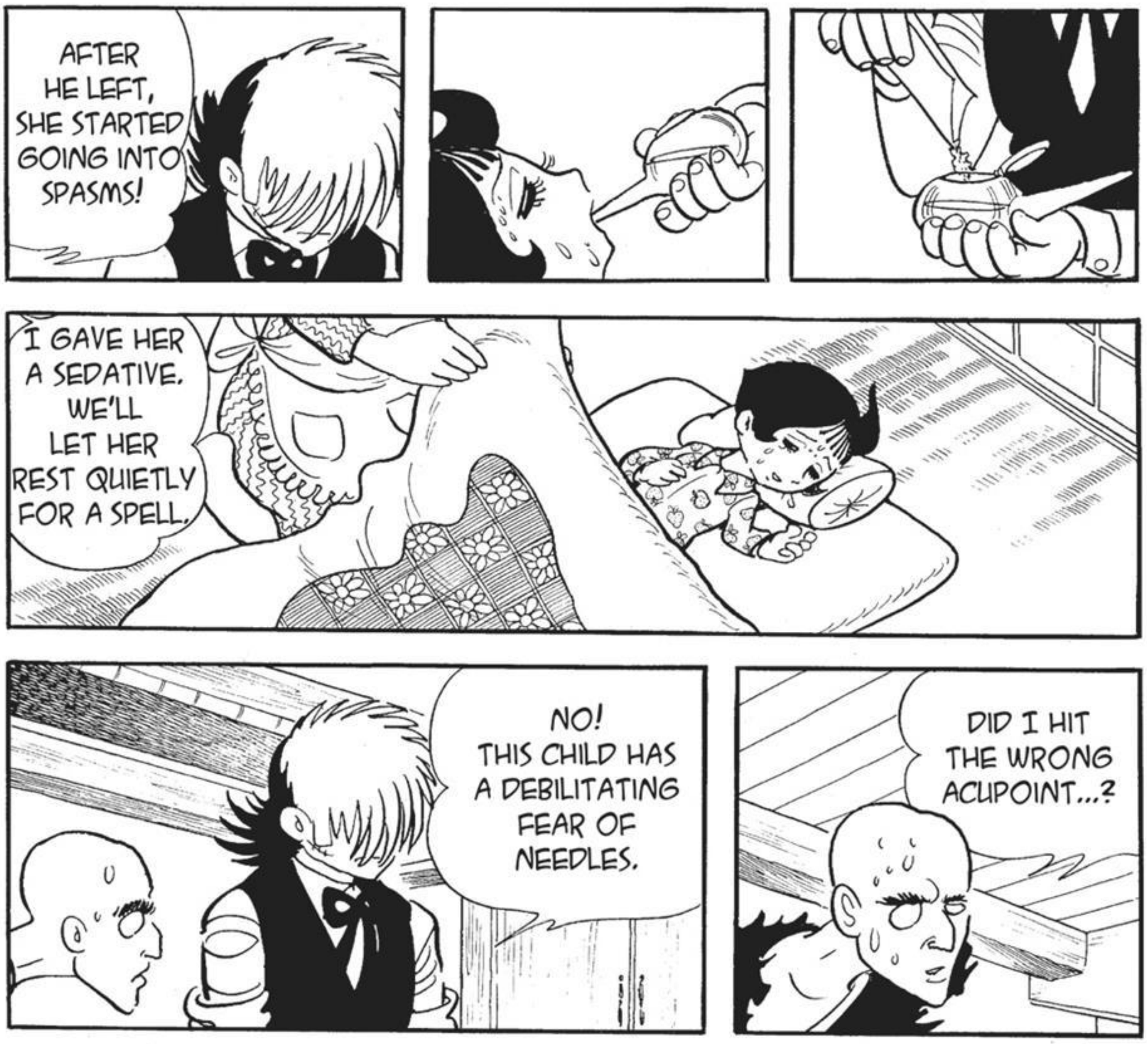

THANKS TO YOU, SHE'S COMPLETELY RECOVERED. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS TOKEN OF OUR GRATITUDE.
I DON'T ACCEPT MONEY... I GET BY JUST FINE WITHOUT IT.
WHERE ARE THE ILL? WHERE ARE THE SICK?
5
OH-HO... I SMELL THE STENCH OF ILLNESS.
GOOD DAY. EXCUSE THE INTRUSION.
ALLOW ME TO HAVE A LOOK.
WH... WHO ARE YOU?
MY CHILD IS TO HAVE AN OPERATION TODAY...
AN OPERATION?
OUT OF THE QUESTION.
BUT THE DOCTOR...
NO! ALLOW ME, MA'AM...

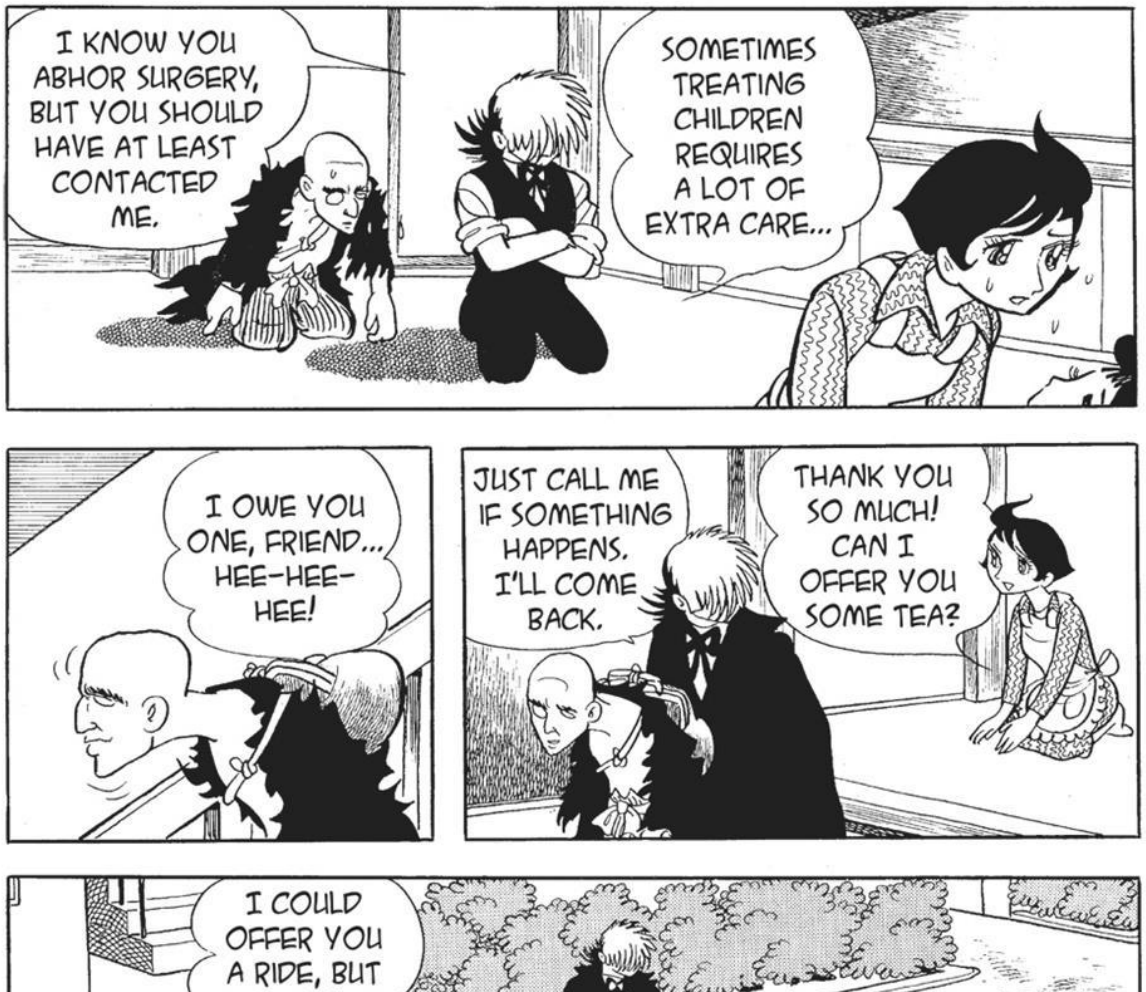

WHAT?!
RRRRR
HE STUCK HER WITH A NEEDLE? GOOD GRIEF!
AN ACUPUNCTURIST CAME BARGING IN?
THIS TIME HE'S GONE TOO FAR!
THAT FOOL ...

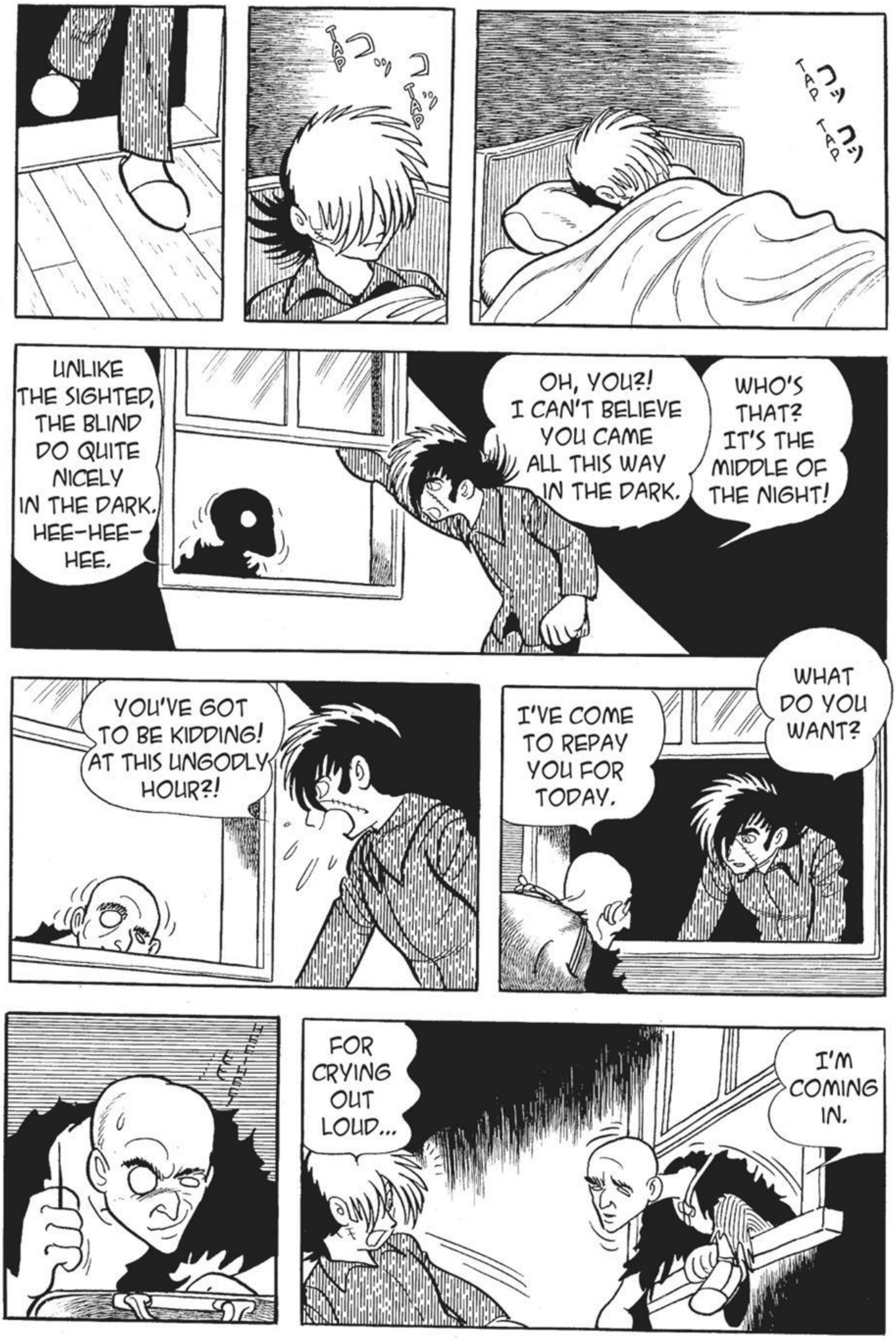

WAIT!
WHY DID YOU TRY TO TREAT MY PATIENT, BIWAMARU?
OH-HO... SO YOU'RE THE DOCTOR WHO WAS GOING TO OPERATE ON THAT PATIENT. HEE-HEE-HEE!
I DON'T CARE WHO YOU STICK YOUR NEEDLES INTO...
JUST DON'T GO MEDDLING WITH MY PATIENTS.
IT'S NOTHING TO GET UPSET ABOUT— I CURED HER, THAT'S ALL.
THAT PATIENT SUFFERS FROM SOMETHING CALLED MYASTHENIA GRAVIS.
SHE WAS SCHEDULED FOR A THYMECTOMY TODAY!! I DIDN'T WANT HER DISTURBED BEFORE THE SURGERY!


I'M NOT THROUGH WITH YOU!
I'M SORRY YOU'RE UPSET...
MY NARROW-MINDED FRIEND!
HOW MANY PATIENTS HAVE YOU CURED WITH ACUPUNCTURE?
AH... TWO OR THREE THOUSAND, I'D SAY. HEE-HEE-HEE!
THAT'S ALL? AND HAVE YOU EVER FAILED?
OF COURSE NOT! HEE-HEE!
WELL, IN THAT CASE...
I FEAR YOU'VE COMMITTED YOUR FIRST ERROR! COME WITH ME!
WH-WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?


TUMP
TUMP
TUMP
BNNN
DOCTOR !!
QUICK!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
ガッ ガク ガク ガク ガク
ガク ガク
JUST AS I THOUGHT!
HAND ME THAT FEEDING CUP!


AFTER HE LEFT, SHE STARTED GOING INTO SPASMS!
I GAVE HER A SEDATIVE. WE'LL LET HER REST QUIETLY FOR A SPELL.
DID I HIT THE WRONG ACUPOINT...?
NO! THIS CHILD HAS A DEBILITATING FEAR OF NEEDLES.
SHE SUFFERS FROM ANXIETY NEUROSIS... A PREVIOUS DOCTOR ADMINISTERED A VERY PAINFUL VAGOSTIGMIN INJECTION, AND SHE'S SUFFERED A PSYCHOLOGICAL AVERSION TO NEEDLES EVER SINCE.
THAT'S WHY I'VE MADE A POINT OF AVOIDING INJECTIONS AT ALL COSTS AND USING ONLY ORAL MEDICATION.


I KNOW YOU ABHOR SURGERY, BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST CONTACTED ME.
SOMETIMES TREATING CHILDREN REQUIRES A LOT OF EXTRA CARE...
I OWE YOU ONE, FRIEND... HEE-HEE-HEE!
JUST CALL ME IF SOMETHING HAPPENS. I'LL COME BACK.
THANK YOU SO MUCH! CAN I OFFER YOU SOME TEA?
I COULD OFFER YOU A RIDE, BUT I DON'T THINK I WILL.
YOUR SKILLS ARE TRULY PHENOMENAL...
BUT I CAN'T ABIDE SHOWY DO-GOODERS!


TAP コッ
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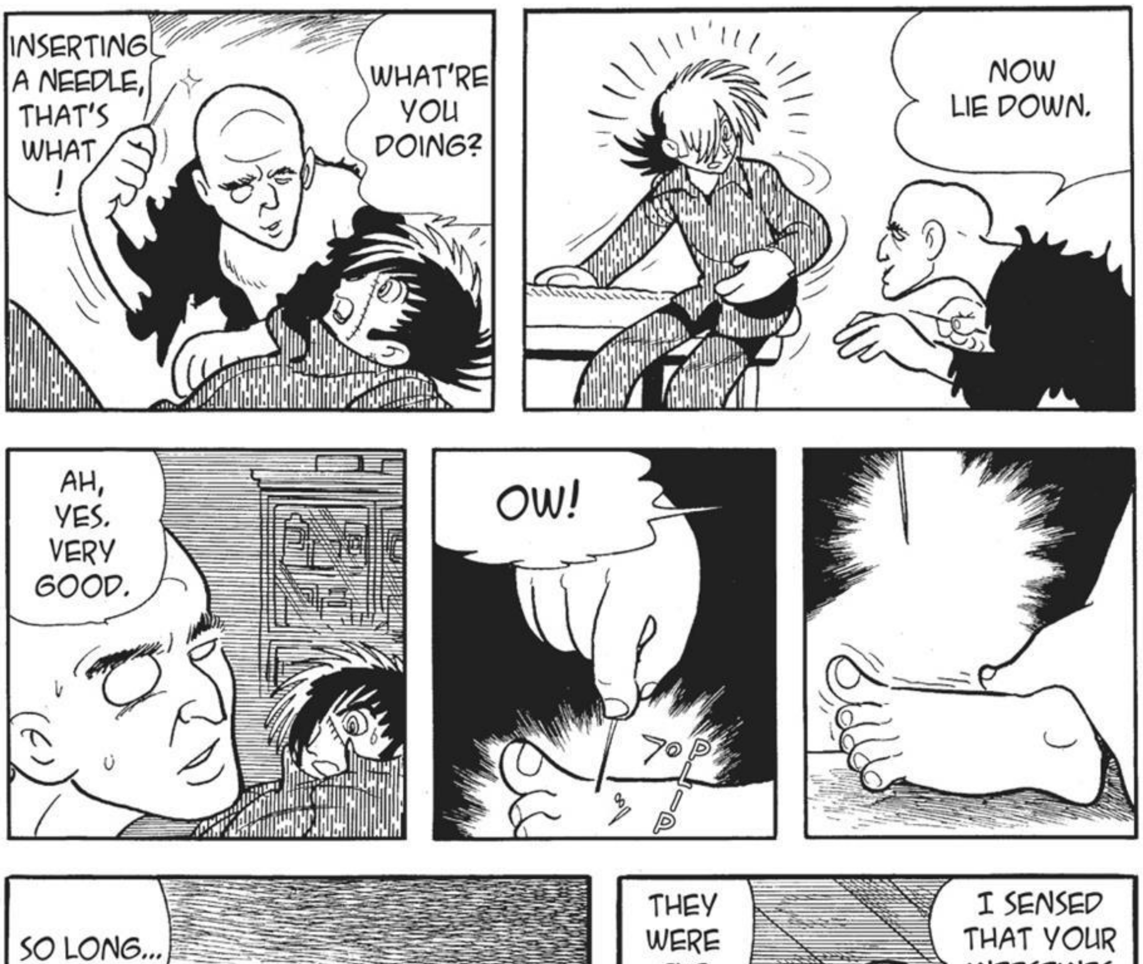
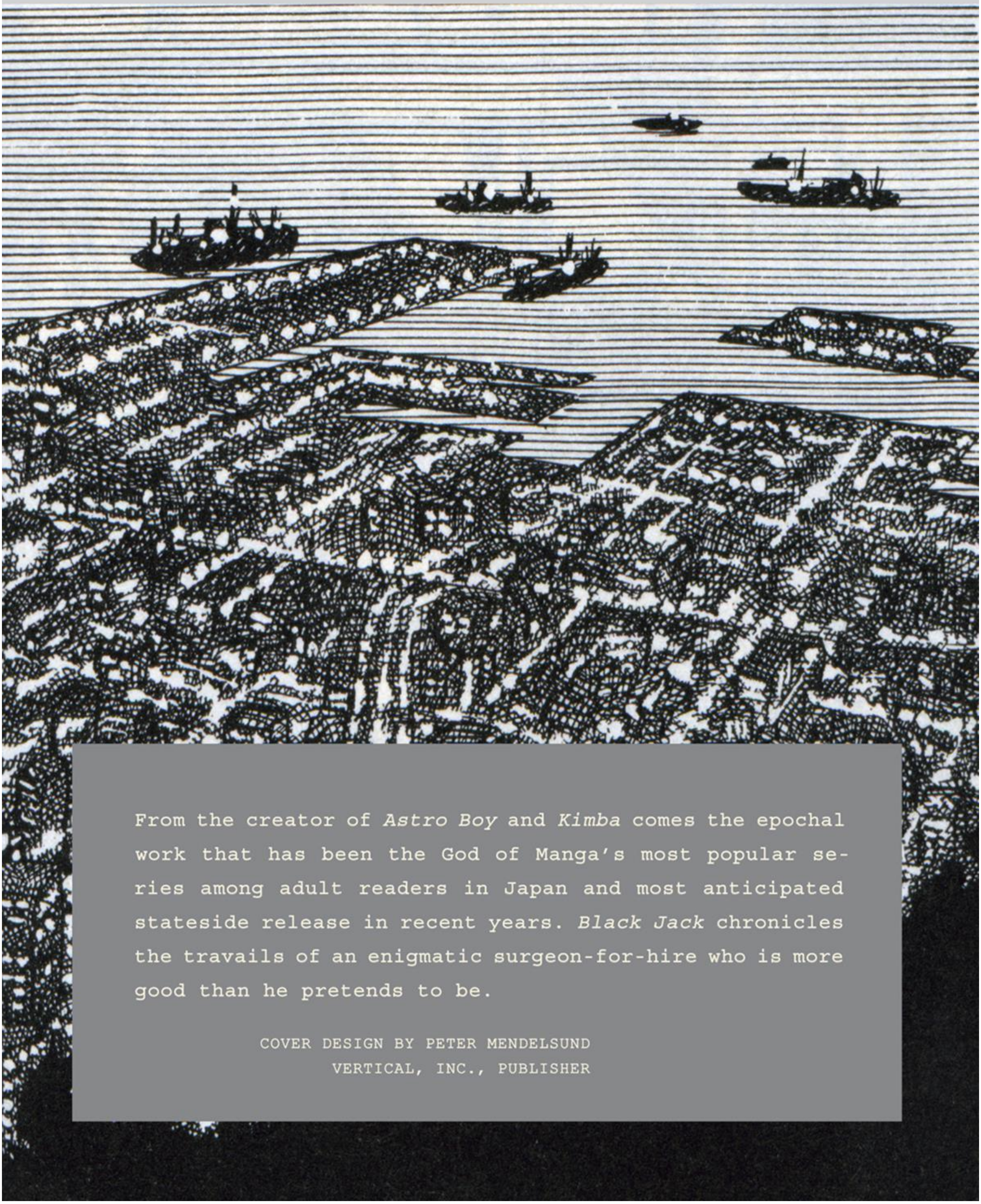
TAP コッ
WHO'S THAT? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
OH, YOU?! I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY IN THE DARK.
UNLIKE THE SIGHTED, THE BLIND DO QUITE NICELY IN THE DARK. HEE-HEE-HEE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I'VE COME TO REPAY YOU FOR TODAY.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING! AT THIS UNGODLY HOUR?!
I'M COMING IN.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD...
HEE-HEE! ヒヒ


NOW LIE DOWN.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
INSERTING A NEEDLE, THAT'S WHAT!
OW!
PLIP
AH, YES. VERY GOOD.
I SENSED THAT YOUR INTESTINES WERE WEAK, FRIEND.
THEY WERE CUT A FEW TIMES, YES?
THEY'LL BE FINE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
SO LONG... UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN.

// A PEERLESS MEDICAL DRAMA //



From the creator of *Astro Boy* and *Kimba* comes the epochal work that has been the God of Manga's most popular series among adult readers in Japan and most anticipated stateside release in recent years. *Black Jack* chronicles the travails of an enigmatic surgeon-for-hire who is more good than he pretends to be.

COVER DESIGN BY PETER MENDELSUND
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